



# THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five  
August 2009

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## COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

Recently, I visited **The Porch**, the latest addition to life in Bryant Park. It is a section in the southwest portion of the Park where people can while away some time on yellow padded Adirondack chairs, sofas and swings (yes, swings! Very romantic, if you ask me). There are even power outlets, for those who wish to pretend to be working. Canned water and small packages of nuts are usually available for free and at certain hours you can purchase drinks and a bite to eat (though this is NEVER required and you can sit undisturbed for as long as you wish and even bring your own lunch, if you like). This is well worth a look-see. And for those who need a bit more action, Bryant Park has acquired two ping-pong tables, to be found in the northern end of the Park. Let's see: a porch, a huge lawn, ping pong, movies on Monday and Broadway on Thursday – this is beginning to sound a lot like those summer resorts in the Catskills when I was a boy!

Sincerely,  
Wally Rubin  
District Manager

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## News and Events

**Go Play In The Street!** – What happens when you take a major NYC avenue and turn it into a park? You get **Summer Streets!**



Continuing this yearly event, **NYC Dept. of Parks** will be closing Park Avenue (how perfect!) to vehicular traffic on consecutive Saturdays in August, the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7a to 1p. The 6.9 mile route, from

Brooklyn Bridge to Central Park, will offer not only a place to rest and soak up the sun, but there will be activities galore; instructors from *Crunch Gyms* will provide free classes, *NY400* will provide free loaner bikes to cruise the route. There will even be music and other entertainment along the way. And NO CARS!!! So, grab your sun block and go play in the street!

### **Sing Out, Louise!**



So, the top ticket price for a Broadway show hovers somewhere around \$150 bucks, and you're thinking, "Maybe I should put that toward my maintenance instead." But never fear denizens of Midtown, **Bryant Park** has your show-tune fix!

**Each Thursday afternoon on The Lawn**, from 12:30p to 1:30p, cast members of some of Broadway's hottest shows will sing their little hearts out while you eat your sushi and drink your lemonade. Long-running shows such as **Phantom...** and **Wicked** will be side by side with newbies like **Next to Normal** and **Billy Elliot**. So, pick up a sandwich, grab a spot on the grass and soak up the sun to the sounds of NYC. For a complete listing of shows visit the [Bryant Park website](#).

### **It Ain't Just Books!**



Ah, the lazy days of summer, when it's best to rest, revitalize and **READ!** Everyone enjoys a good summer read – pick it up, put it down, pick it up... The **New York Public Library** wants you to share your reading adventures with the masses. By signing up at [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org), you can post to book blogs and write and post book reviews, to let the rest of the city know what characters you've been wiling away the hours with. In addition, you can find library services and events, like Game Day, or painting workshops, or even good ol' fashioned story-time – right here in Midtown! So take advantage of all a free public library has to offer. Who knew?



### **Take A Peek At History-**



July 4<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the founding of our country. But here's a question: when was the last time you actually read **The Declaration of Independence**? *The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building*, a branch of the **New York Public Library** located at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, is honored to safeguard a copy of one of this nation's most hallowed documents - a clean, full-text version of The Declaration of Independence, without corrections or alterations, written in Thomas Jefferson's own hand. The Library's copy is one of two known to survive intact. This collection includes the second official copy that was sent to the Continental Congress, as well as a letter from Ben Franklin to George Washington, informing him that the Declaration was being written. Such a piece of history, right here in Midtown. For more information on library activities in Midtown and all around the city, visit [the NYPL website](#).

**The Fabric Of Life** - NYC is in constant flux. Nowhere is that more evident than in Midtown. What was once almost exclusively a manufacturing district has shown a marked increase in residential buildings, restaurants and bars. Before parts of Midtown were known as the *Fashion Center*, they were called the *Garment District*, and it's this history that **The Gotham Center** wants to preserve.

**The Garment Center History**

**Initiative** tracks the people and events that have created the texture of Midtown. Historical perspectives, current trends and the personal stories of those who worked in the shops are accessible online. Visitors can even leave their own thoughts and impressions, adding to the rich tapestry of the area.

So visit **The Garment Center History Initiative website** and see what it's made of.



**Clean It Up For Free!** - Graffiti has been on the decline for a good long time in NYC, but, like rats, it's always somewhere.

Property owners can partner with NYC to have graffiti removed from their property *free of charge*. **Graffiti Free NYC** is a program that allows property owners to sign a waiver that authorizes NYC clean-up crews to enter the property and remove graffiti or paint over it. The waiver can be done electronically, and the status of the request can be followed online! Once a **Graffiti Free NYC** vehicle arrives, the work-crew members will confirm the cleaning method by examining the type of building, secure the work area with caution tape and cones, and begin removing the graffiti. Within the last year, 48 incidences of graffiti in the CB5 district were scheduled for clean-up, and 41 are done! For more information on this program, including FAQ's and waiver forms, visit the **Graffiti Free NYC website**.



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## Parking Calendar

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



**Saturday, August 15 – Feast of the Assumption**

Changes occur often, so call 311 for daily updates. For more information on Parking Regulations, visit the **DOT Parking Calendar** at [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov).

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## 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> St.  
Contact: P.O. Mike Hnatko at 212-477-7427
- **Midtown North Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, 427 West 47<sup>th</sup> 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, 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
Contact: Det. Adam D'Amico at 212-239-9846

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## 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](mailto:office@cb5.org).

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## Contact Community Board Five

**Community Board Five**  
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**New York, NY 10123**  
**Phone: 212-465-0907**  
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**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 Manhattan Midtown**, 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.

