

THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
Vikki Barbero, Chair

October 2009

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

I know that all of you reading this newsletter were among the seven people who voted in this past week's election but as Gail Collins might put it - people, we can do better! Manhattan has over 1.6 million residents, yet just 100,000 chose our next DA. Just 45,000 people (out of 1.6 million) picked Cy Vance, the victor in the race, for the rest of us. In Community Board terms, that's not even close to a quorum!

Well, lucky for us, we have another chance to display our democratic colors. There is a run-off in the races for Public Advocate and NYC Comptroller on September 29th and, of course, we pick our next Mayor on Tuesday, November 3rd. This time, let's all of us do the choosing for ourselves.

Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

News and Events

Let's Do Simple - The noise in Times Square can be so deafening that words simply get lost. But on the 29th of September, the word takes center stage.



Bright Lights, Big Verse: The Poems of Times Square sets up shop and speaks the word, as winners of a national poetry contest are celebrated with a free public reading of their works right at the Crossroads of the World. Each winner is given \$750 and a trip to NYC to participate in the event, along with readings by other distinguished poets and literary luminaries.

Musicals may abound in Midtown, but on September 29th in Duffy Square, the spoken word takes center stage. For more information and to read poetry from past winners, visit the **Times Square Alliance** website at www.timessquarealliance.org

Change Is Good...Isn't It? - There is no denying that NYC is continually under construction – buildings go up, buildings come down, neighborhoods change. Midtown has been one of the fastest changing parts of the city, and with all that change comes much debate. On Tuesday, September 29, **Rapid Response**, a monthly event run by **Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation**, will be hosting a discussion on issues related to the rezoning of the Garment District. The event aims to be a conversation between those groups that have a stake in the re-zoning and



re-development of this integral part of NYC's history - designers, city planners, economists, and community and labor activists. CB5's Magda Aboufadel, Vice Chair of the Health, Human Services & Youth Committee, has been asked to participate, as well. **Rapid Response** will be held on Tuesday, September 29, at **Studio-X**, located at 180 Varick St., between King and Charleton. [Click here for more information on Studio-X and types of programming.](#)

That's Midtown?! - Earlier this month, NYC celebrated the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's famous voyage up the river that now

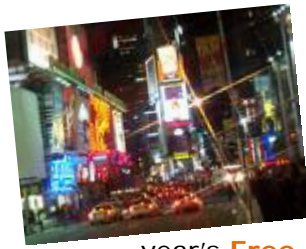


bears his name. Mannahatta, as it was known at the time – a name that may mean “many hills” – was a lush and verdant island, covered with old growth forests, stately wetlands, rolling hills, abundant wildlife, and people who lived in tune with nature. A lot has changed in 400 years. To see what this city was before it was a city, the **Museum of the City of New York** is presenting **Mannahatta/Manhattan: A Natural History of New York City**. The exhibit, which runs through October 12, combines cutting edge multi-media and historical artifacts and maps to re-imagine the quiet, wooded island at the mouth of a great river that was destined to become one of the greatest cities on Earth. Moreover, **Mannahatta/Manhattan** will challenge visitors to re-think the relationship between nature and people in a modern mega-city. For more information on this exhibit, visit www.mnyc.org and don't just look ahead, look back.

No Really - That's Midtown?!

- While visiting the museum might not be on your schedule, you can still visit **The Mannahatta Project** online. This research endeavor, a decade in the making, has plotted the natural history of Manhattan Island, helping us to plan for the ecological future of NYC by understanding its ecological past. And there's a really cool interactive map that lets you see what any address in Manhattan looked like 400 years ago! You should see Times Square!! This site also lets you download scientific data and lesson plans, as well as discuss various topics with others via a discussion page. You may think you know New York City, but do you really? **The Mannahatta Project** can be found at www.mannahattaproject.org





What NYC Does Best - Well, ok, one could argue that there are many things NYC does best, but theatre definitely ranks up at the top. As the recession recedes (right?), it's time to dust off the theatre-going habit and head to the shows! October 15th 2009 is officially **Free Night of Theater Day** in New York City! This

year's **Free Night of Theater** program (sponsored by *Theatre Communications Group*) will kick off in grand fashion with an all day event in Union Square celebrating Off Broadway and Off-Off Broadway theatre in New York City by **giving away over 9,000 free tickets** to over 350 shows by 115 companies. There will be installations, booths, music, and many performances by theatre companies from around the city from noon to 6pm! The goal of this event is to raise awareness for the **Free Night of Theater** program and to celebrate the Theater Artists who live and work in New York City (you know who you are). For more information visit www.freenightnyc.net

Parking Calendar

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



Succoth – Oct. 3-4 (Sat. & Sun.)
Shemini Atzereth – Oct. 10 (Sun.)
Simchas Torah – Oct. 11 (Sun.)
Columbus Day – Oct. 12 (Mon.)
Diwali – Oct. 17 (Sat.)

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.

