



THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
Vikki Barbero, Chair

November 2009

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

I want to encourage everyone to fill out the **Times Square Alliance** survey linked to below, which is part of the important evaluation of the new pedestrian plazas that sprang up this year, not only in Times Square but in a number of places up and down Broadway in our district. Last spring, the **Department of Transportation (DOT)** said that these plazas were temporary and that they would be doing an evaluation in the fall. **DOT** is keeping to its word and is in the midst of an extensive multi-faceted evaluation. The **Times Square Alliance** is doing its own evaluation, of which this survey is a part. I know it will come as a shock, but lots of New Yorkers expressed skepticism that any serious evaluation would really occur. Well, it's Autumn and that evaluation is now taking place. Here's your chance. Take part. Let your opinions be heard. Just do me a favor first: tap your way up those **TKTS** red steps and take a look at the view from the top. Whatever improvements still need to be made, as someone who went to high school literally around the corner in the 1970's and spent most of my career equally close by, I think that view today is mighty impressive.

Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

News and Events



Vox Populi - A soon-to-be-launched website takes aim at Midtown. The site **Main Street Midtown**, a hyper-local site that will launch in late November 2009, will focus on the neighborhood from the ground up, from theater and restaurants to daily life in midtown, shopping, news commentary, opinion and the arts. Since the blog will report on Midtown from the perspective of those who live and work here, they are seeking a blogger-columnist to

contribute original content. This is a great opportunity for someone who is looking to break into the blog world and develop his/her voice. The requirement would be for one post of at least 300 words per week, preferably accompanied by photos, audio or video. If interested in becoming part of this new venture, please contact marcella.veneziale@journalism.cuny.edu

And They're Off! - Wait . . . what's that sound? 40,000 runners stampeding their way around NYC! It's **NYC Marathon time!!** This premier running event is scheduled for *Saturday, November 1* and proves to be, as always, a truly fabulous day. The excitement runs so high along the route that it makes you want to jump in and join the race. Well, almost. But you can certainly cheer on the participants – the elite runners, the seasoned road-warriors, and even the first-timers dragging themselves over 26.6 miles of beautiful New York City landscapes. For course and viewing information, you can visit the **NYC Marathon website**. So, grab a spot and help someone make it across the line.



TLC for NYC – Who doesn't love a make-over? People get make-overs. Houses get extreme make-overs. Now, your very own block can get a make-over of its own. **Citizens Committee for New York City** is expanding the **Love Your (NYC) Block Grant Program** this fall. Applications are currently being accepted from *volunteer-led* neighborhood groups across NYC for block transformation projects. Awardees will receive a \$500 cash award along with expedited support from multiple City Agencies including the Departments of Transportation, Sanitation and Parks. The application deadline is November 30 and applications can be downloaded from the **Citizens Committee website**. Time to make your block a showplace.



Education Starts Early - Parents can still enroll four-year olds in FREE Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) programs by Friday, October 30th. About 5,000 full-day and half-day UPK seats are still available for children who turned four years old by December 31, 2009, in public schools, childcare centers and community-based organizations.



Families can select a vacant seat near where they live, where they work or where they go to school.

The resources below are available to help families find childcare centers or public schools with available seats, but families should contact individual programs to confirm seat availability and to register.

- Families can **call 311** and ask for a UPK program in their neighborhood.
- **Call a toll free number (888) 469-5999** and speak with a parent counselor.

- Families can log on to **NYCityMap**, enter an address, then click on "Show Additional Data" (on the right hand side at the bottom), and choose "Universal Pre-K" under Education.
- The **DOE's website** has a directory of programs with available seats.

Everybody Has An Opinion – Much has been said about Times Square, good and bad. But how often are you actually *asked* to give your opinion on it? It's gone through some big changes over the course of 2009 and the **Times Square Alliance** wants to know what you think about those changes! Seriously. Your thoughts will help the **Alliance** better understand the advantages and disadvantages of the area – from the



perspective of the employees and residents who pass through the area every day– and inform practices that can better address the issues and needs of the neighborhood. It only takes a few moments, is completely anonymous, and can make Midtown even better than it already is! So take a moment and take the survey by visiting www.timessquarenyc.org

Receding Waters? - The economy is difficult for every business, but especially so for small ones, who find themselves hanging on by a thread. The **Flatiron BID** wants to help ease the pain by offering a **Small Business Assistance Forum** and networking opportunity for small business owners. This forum will focus on new ways of succeeding in an economy that has been less than hospitable to small businesses. Following a panel discussion, there will be a networking breakfast and a series of breakout sessions on a variety of issues, from accessing capital to



resources management. The event will be held on **November 20th**, 2009 from 8a to 11a at the *Baruch College Newman Conference Center*, located at 151 East 25th St. To view the flyer/invitation to this event, [click here](#). Please RSVP by November 11 at events@flatironbid.org or by calling 212.741.2323



On The Road To Nowhere – You've seen them: they're huge, they block the view, they clog city streets, and they're multiplying like bunnies. **Tour buses!** It seems like the past six months Midtown has been a breeding ground for charter tour buses



that scuttle between NYC and all points north, east, south and west. A **Town Hall Meeting** will be held with elected officials and representatives from several NYC agencies to address this ever growing quality of life issue. *Speaker Quinn*, along with *US*

Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer, NYS Senator Thomas K. Duane, NYS Assembly Members Richard N. Gottfried, Linda B. Rosenthal, and Deborah J. Glick will gather to confront the health, safety,



environmental and quality of life concerns regarding idling buses and tour/charter buses in and around the Midtown area. The meeting will be held on **November 12th** at the Hudson Guild, located at 441 West 26th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues from 6:15 pm- 8:30 pm. *Space is limited* so please RSVP to Melanie La Rocca in the Speaker's office at (212) 564-7757 x104 or MLarocca@council.nyc.gov



Parking Calendar



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

All Saints Day – Sunday, Nov. 1
Election Day – Tuesday, Nov. 3
Veteran's Day – Wednesday, Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, Nov. 26
Idul Adha – Thursday–Sunday, Nov. 26 - 28

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!
www.cb5.org

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.

