

THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
Vikki Barbero, Chair

September 2010

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

Autumn is always an energizing season. There's campaign frenzy, the new Broadway and off-Broadway theatre season, Fashion Week, Halloween and, of course, back to school which always brings a rush of new students onto our streets from across the country and around the world.

With the controversy over 15 Penn Plaza having reached its climax, we had a busy summer here at CB5. There was disappointment that the vote didn't go our way, but we move on with our work and look forward to new challenges, new fashions, new shows, and one very special **new cook book** (by our very own Board member Kate McDonough!!) for all of us to anticipate and enjoy.

Welcome to the Fall.

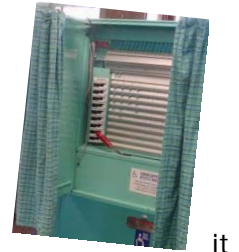
Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

News and Events

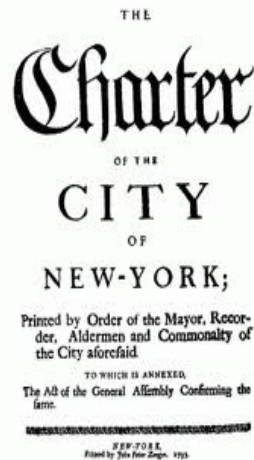


The Future Is Upon Us - The election juggernaut is rolling this way. Primaries have already concluded in many states and soon enough New Yorkers will have their chance – September 14, to be exact. What you might not have heard so much about, though, is the fact that, after more than 45 years, NYC is finally changing its method of voting. The typical NYC voting experience had always been something like this: step in, pull

big red lever, look all over the machine to make sure you know which little lever to flip, flip the little levers, pull big red lever again, leave. Well, 21st century voting technology has come to Gotham. Beginning this primary season, New Yorkers will now be using scanners: darken circle on paper ballot (do NOT use an "x" or a "✓"), put ballot in scanner, leave. It just doesn't have the same sense of accomplishment, does it? Rest assured, though, these machines do offer a paper trail, so there will be no votes disappearing into the void around here! (We hope.) If the idea of a computerized voting system gives you a tiny case of the heebie-jeebies, you can preview the new system before you even set foot in your polling place. The **NYC Board of Elections** offers demonstrations on-line, as well as in the flesh. For information on where to see the new system in action, click on **their website**, enter your zip, and a list of locations and times of demos will appear. Even in a city that's all about the future, change can come slowly; be ready for it when finally arrives.



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Rule Change Alert - Not to make this a civics lesson, but every New Yorker should be informed. Come Election Day, in addition to a slew of candidates for public office listed on the ballot, there will be two very important questions pertaining to the revision of the **NYC Charter**, the document that outlines how NYC government is structured and operates. The two questions on the ballot this fall pertain to **elections and government administration**, and **term limits** – specifically, should councilmembers be limited to two terms once again? It may seem a bit dull and dry, but considering that the laws that govern *everyone* can be changed even when the *least* amount of people show up to vote, you might

want to read up on the issues. And, as always, there's a wee bit of controversy: among other things, over a clause that allows those already in office to run for a third term! To brush up on the issues, we offer two sites to get you started: the **Charter Revision Commission website** gives the description of each measure as it will appear on the ballot on election day; and **The City Pragmatist** offers a brief explanation of each ballot initiative and offers its own opinion on how you should vote (CB5 has taken NO position on these measures and we offer this site for the sake of discussion only). When it comes to changing the rules, know what you're taking about. So read up!

Oh, To Be Fabulous! - This city loves to celebrate itself. And we do it in high fashion. So, of course it makes perfect sense for us to celebrate High Fashion! It's time for **Fashion's Night Out!** As if Fashionistas need an excuse to be out and about. On Friday, September 10th, retailers across the city will stay open late



and cajole shoppers inside with all manner of goodies. Each shop gets to choose its own means of enticement, so who knows what you'll get when you walk through the door. But the surprise is half the fun – maybe there will be goodie give-aways, munchies, models or more! The purpose of **Fashion's Night Out** is to give a shot in the arm to Fashion, as well as its attendant industries, like Midtown's own Garment District. The fun runs until 11p so you can make a night of it and shop hop with your entourage. For information on participating retailers, [click here](#).



Take A Look Back - You know it, you love it, you wonder why they have their own block. **The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT)** doesn't just have classes in fashion and design; they also have a museum that showcases fashion and design. Throughout the year, **The Museum at FIT** has a rotating roster of exhibits, all free and open to the public. Beginning in September are two guided tours through current exhibits: **Japan Fashion Now**, and **Eco-Fashion: Going Green**, a look at fashion's complex relationship with the environment. Hmm, it satisfies your need for couture and your green side all at the same time! The tours run at various times throughout the winter, and you can find dates and times of the tours, as well as additional exhibit info, by visiting the [FIT website](#).

Eat Your Veggies! - Knish. Hot dogs. Shish kebob. Gyro. NYC street food is a gastronomic sampling of the world. But that world includes vegetables, too, and in some neighborhoods, you'd be hard pressed to know it. In 2008, the **NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOH)** began its **Green Cart Initiative**, a



program designed to establish outlets for fresh produce in areas of the city where such items may not be in abundance. Successful from its inception, the program is expanding and looking for additional vendors. Beginning this fall, applications will be accepted to go on the waiting list for a Green Cart vendor's license. All Green Cart vendors must first have a Mobile Food Cart vending license, so getting one of those is the first step. For more information on the licensing process, and to read about the **Green Cart Initiative**, visit the [DOH website](#).

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; Det. Joe Bunster 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.

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.

