

Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

Summer 2009 Vol. 52, No. 2

City Council Speaker Quinn Reports on Small Business

Christine C. Quinn, New York City Council Speaker, met with residents of Murray Hill and Turtle Bay, on May 12, to discuss the challenges facing the city's small business owners. The meeting, one of a city-wide series titled, "Open For Business," provided a forum for the two communities to voice their concerns, and to hear about proposals under way to address them.

In her "State of the City Address," on February 12, the Speaker stressed the city's need to diversify business beyond high finance as a means to stimulate and stabilize the economy, and create new jobs. At the May 12 meeting, she continued the theme, characterizing the small business segment as vibrant and central to the city's economy and quality of life. The five boroughs host 220,000 small businesses, which, collectively, are New York's largest private source of employment. In light of the thicket of financial, administrative and regulatory requirements that hamper businesses, Quinn defined one of the Council's



NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn meets with the community

goals as "getting the city out of the way," so that small businesses, new and existing, can concentrate on growth.

At the meeting, Council Members Jessica Lappin (District 5) and Dan Garodnick (District 4) joined the Speaker in spelling out some of the programs and proposals under consideration. Among a variety of examples are:

- Easing certain financial restrictions to help keep businesses afloat,
- Increasing direct participation of city agencies with local neighborhoods,
- Helping local businesses afford employee health care plans,
- Working with landlords to make use of available, unrented storefronts, and
- Supporting city events that attract tourists and New Yorkers on "staycation."

The meeting was co-sponsored by Lappin, Garodnick, the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, and the Turtle Bay Association. The two associations provided coffee and bagels. The new Grand Central branch of the New York Public Library generously provided the space.

To read Speaker Quinn's State of the City Address, visit <http://council.nyc.gov>, which also features information about individual council members and how to contact them, as well as details on all initiatives.

Challenge Time Extended For Zoning Compliance

The recently-enacted zoning approval process for new development has been amended to extend the initial public challenge period from 30 to 45 days, allowing more time for New Yorkers to dispute building design plans. The extension was the response of the Department of Buildings (DOB) to public objections to the original, shorter time allowance.

The new zoning rules are a component of the development reforms announced by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in February, 2009. They give New Yorkers a stronger voice in the development of neighborhoods, make the building process more transparent, and provide the public and developers with greater clarity about how and when a construction project can move forward.

Under the reforms, architects and engineers are required to submit diagrams of the proposed new building or major enlargement plan to the DOB for determination of zoning compliance. Following that,

the diagrams are to be posted online, along with critical information about the size of the project, drawn to scale, and where the building will sit relative to the street. The public will have 45 days to challenge whether the project complies with zoning regulations, and any DOB responses to the challenges will be posted on the DOB website. New York City is the first city in the country to post zoning diagrams online.

Announced by Buildings Commissioner Robert LiMandri, and published in the City Record on June 9, 2009, the new process took effect on Monday, July 13, 2009, establishing for the first time, an organized procedure to dispute the DOB's zoning decisions. The procedure will also streamline the review of the thousands of challenges received by the DOB each year, at no additional cost to the city. The previous process had no formal time frame, and often produced confusion, and unnecessary and unintended costs

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Business and Employment Resources

NY Public Library

Business owners and job hunters can find a host of support services and resources, free of charge, at the Science, Industry and Business (SIBL) branch of the New York Public Library. SIBL provides access to vast databases helpful to career searches and business operations. Bring your laptop, or use an on-site computer; print out and download information; confer with a librarian; schedule a meeting with a business or

career counselor; and enjoy a modern and low-key setting in which to concentrate and work.

SIBL is located at 188 Madison Avenue, between 34th and 35th Streets. It is open everyday but Sunday: Mon., Fri., and Sat., 11-6 and Tue., Wed., and Thu., 10-8. More information is available at the SIBL Web site, www.nypl.org/research/sibl, and by calling 212-592-7000 (Mon.-Sat., 10-5).

Workforce 1

New Yorkers can find help negotiating New York City's labor market at Workforce 1, a program that matches employers with job seekers.

Workforce 1 Career Centers, located throughout the five boroughs, provide job hunters with counseling in search skills and job preparation. Programs include career workshops, GED and ESL classes, and vouchers for job training.

Businesses receive assistance through NYC Business Solutions, in partnership with Workforce 1. The program custom-designs recruitment and training programs, and industry specialists help businesses recruit, screen and hire the best applicants. They also help train new and current employees.

For more information about Workforce 1 and NYC Business Solutions visit www.nyc.gov.

U.N. Employees Move

Neighbors can expect to see plenty of moving vans in Turtle Bay over the summer months, as United Nations employees are relocated to temporary space that will be used during the first phase of the U.N.'s \$1.9 billion renovation project.

Each Saturday and Sunday through next October, trucks will transport the office contents of some 400 employees to interim space. Almost half of the 5,000 employees will be moved to 380 Madison Avenue, between 46th and 47th Streets, and the others to space in the Albano Building at 305 East 46th Street and in Long Island

City. Conference facilities, as well as the offices of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and 200 high-level Secretariat staff, will be housed in a new three-story temporary structure nearing completion on the U.N.'s North Lawn.

Renovation of the Secretariat and Conference buildings is expected to be finished by late 2011. The temporary building then will be converted for use by the General Assembly while the Assembly hall undergoes renovation. Work on the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and South Annex Building will be done at the same time.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed in 2013.

Briefly in Business

- **Nations Café:** 875 First Avenue (corner of 49th Street), 212-308-2001. Open seven days, 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
- **Plaza Diner:** 1066 Second Avenue (corner of 56th Street), 212-980-8282. Open 24 hours Tuesday-Sunday, Monday, closes at 11:00 p.m.

Both Nation's Café and Plaza Diner are offering TBA members a 15% discount on all purchases, and, from the Dinner Specials Menu, an offer of buy one meal and get the second (of equal or lesser value) at half price between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. Both offers are valid through December 31, 2009.

Community Calendar

- **Last Tuesday every month**
17th Precinct Community Council
Open Meeting, 6 p.m.
Sutton Place Synagogue
225 East 51st Street
212-826-3228
(No meetings July, August, December)
- **Second Wednesday every month**
Community Board 6
Full Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
NYU Medical Center
550 First Avenue
212-319-3750

Turtle Bay Association

224 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-751-5465
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E-mail: tbaoffice@mindspring.com
Web Site: www.turtlebaynyc.org

Check our Bulletin Board:
East side of Second Avenue,
between 48th and 49th Streets,
on outside wall of the supermarket.

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Katharine Hepburn Garden Party Celebration



Many Turtle Bay neighbors and other New Yorkers came to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, on May 9, 2009, for the 10th annual Katharine Hepburn Garden Party, celebrating the late star's birthday.

Pleasant weather and a full program made the day a success. Visitors continued arriving throughout the afternoon and stayed to enjoy coffee and birthday cake, the Deanna Kirk Jazz Trio, a dance demonstration by the Fred Astaire Dance Studio, and a walk through the Katharine Hepburn garden, which is tended by Friends of Dag Hammarskjold volunteers. Assemblyman Jonathan Bing, of the 73rd Assembly District, which includes Turtle Bay, spoke of the park as central to the quality of life in our community.

Thanks go to Sherrill Kazan, President, and Anne Saxon-Hersh, Director of Development, of Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza; and to Turtle Bay Association President Bill Curtis and board members, Millie Margiotta, Ethel Bendove and Pat McDougald. The party was jointly sponsored by the two organizations, which shared the costs and cooperated in event notification, set-up, entertainment and food.



17th Precinct Officers Honored

At a quintessentially New York City gathering, 30 officers of the 17th Precinct were honored, and eight promoted, for outstanding service at the annual Community/Police Appreciation Awards Ceremony on June 5. Saint Vartan Armenian Cathedral opened its event room to officers, their families, and the communities served by the precinct, who came to congratulate the hard-working officers who keep our community safe.

Jay Litwin, President of the 17th Precinct Community Council, the sponsor, gave the opening remarks, followed by an invocation by Saint Vartan's Reverend Father Mardiros Chevian. Officers in formal dress were called to the podium, where they received their honors from precinct Captain and Commanding Officer Ted W. Berntsen. The ceremony closed with a benediction by Monsignor Douglas J. Mathers of the Archdiocese of New York.



The gathering then enjoyed a buffet dinner, and the opportunity to relax and celebrate with colleagues, friends and family.

The communities served by the 17th Precinct and, in turn, honored for their support, are Beekman Place Association; Manhattan Community Board 6; Manhattan East Community Association; Murray Hill Neighborhood Association; Sutton Area Community Association; Tudor City Association; and Turtle Bay Association.



Shirley MacLeod of Murray Hill, shown with Turtle Bay's Millie Margiotta, received a U.S. Congressional Certificate from Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney.



Chief Mark Rosenbaum



Of Smashers And Squirters

BY RICHIE GOLDSTEIN

“Smashers” are firemen who break down your door to get to the problem. “Squirters” are those who follow and extinguish the fire. There’s much more to know about fighting fires than meets the eye. I visited our local fire house, on 51st Street between Third and Lexington Avenues, and spoke with Chief Mark Rosenbaum of the Engine 8, Ladder 2, 8th Battalion. The battalion protects two million New Yorkers, and the job is extremely complex and has a never-ending learning curve. More than dangerous and unpredictable, being a fireman demands constant readiness and attention, whether fighting a fire or at the fire house.

My first impression on entering the station was one of order: everything clean, in place, and checked anew by each arriving shift, which examines the equipment and tools, and ensures that boots and clothes are ready for quick action. Respirators, critical for working in smoke-filled areas, get minute attention. They’re passed from shift to shift, and each user examines them meticulously. “You don’t want to get into a burning building and find out that the respirator isn’t working,” said Chief Rosenbaum. Not long ago, Fireman Mike Columbia, enabled by his courage and his respirator, pulled a woman overcome by smoke from her burning apartment, saving her life and earning the FDNY’s Holy Names Society Medal.

To better deal with the unexpected, firemen constantly review past experiences for insights that can help future problems. They debrief after most calls and, in downtime, tell fire stories. By sharing their knowledge in stories, they advance their skills and learn many things that can’t be covered in their intensive six-month training, or found in a fire manual. In fact, many firemen have been hearing fire stories since childhood. The majority of men at the fire house have relatives – brothers, fathers, uncles – who either are or were firemen. “Like most professions, if your father did it, you do it, too,” says Rosenbaum.

As for nostalgia, I learned, with disappointment, that the hook and ladder is giving way to new ladder trucks that are half the cost though equally effective. Also on the way out are the emblematic brass fire poles, which might be obstructive during emergencies.

Initially, the same equipment is dispatched to every fire: three engine trucks and two ladders. In a multi-story fire, the crew from the first arriving engine goes straight to the blaze and begins attacking. The second engine crew goes to the floor above the fire. If the situation escalates, further engine and ladder companies, and medical responders are called. Escalations can happen fast. Commercial buildings are especially dangerous, because of old construction, the storage of highly flammable materials, and unsupervised premises at night.

My visit concluded with a retelling of the events of 9/11, when ten members of the 8th Battalion lost their lives. A prominent display of photos and commemorative plaques honors the men. Chief Rosenbaum explained that it’s the same in firehouses all over the city.



September 11, 2001 Memorial



Firefighting is technical.



Zoning continued from page 1
for development.

“New Yorkers have a right to know what’s being built in their neighborhoods, and now they can easily find out by visiting our website,” said Commissioner LiMandri. “These new, easy-to-read diagrams open the door to the construction process like never before, and will give more certainty to the community and developers in any future projects in the city.”

To examine the diagrams online, go to www.nyc.gov/buildings, under the My Community section.

Formal Statement of New Public Challenge Process

- **Initial Public Challenge Period:** When the Department approves zoning plans for any new building or major enlargement, the building diagrams, called ZD1 forms, and other associated documents will be uploaded to the Department’s Web site. New Yorkers will then have 45 calendar days to review and challenge the zoning approval. In addition, once a permit is issued, builders will be required to post the permit at the project location within three days of its issuance so the public is aware of the proposed development.
- **Initial Zoning Challenge Review:** After the initial public challenge period ends, the Borough Commissioner will address every challenge by conducting a full review of the construction plans and rendering decisions that will be posted online. If a challenge is determined to be valid, appropriate enforcement action may be taken, including issuing Stop Work Orders, revocation of permits, and requiring redesigns of the proposed construction.
- **Community Appeals Period:** If the Borough Commissioner determines that a challenge is invalid, the public will be given an additional 15 calendar days to appeal to the First Deputy Commissioner.
- **Final Zoning Challenge Review:** Once the First Deputy Commissioner issues a determination, the decision may be appealed to the City’s Board of Standards and Appeals.

Senior Center Thanks TBA

Stephanie Prince, LMSW, assistant director of the Senior Center at Saint Peter’s Church, attended a recent TBA board meeting to thank the TBA for its continuing donations. As part of Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, the center provides fun, friendship and learning for adults age 60 and over, with an exciting variety of free educational, cultural and recreational activities, as well as a hot lunch.

Membership is open to adults age 60 and



Stephanie Prince (center) with TBA Board

requires proof of age. Registration is free, and open 9-3 daily. The center operates on Mon., Wed. and Thurs. from 9-4, and Saturday from 9-2. Lunch is served at noon, tickets are distributed from 10-11, and sign-up is required by 11:45. A donation of \$1.50 is suggested.

Saint Peter’s Church is situated at 619 Lexington Avenue, at 54th Street. For more information, contact the center at 212-308-1959,

or visit these websites: www.lenoxhill.org, www.stpeters.org, or United Neighbors of East Midtown at www.unem.org.

Employment For Older Adults

Job support and volunteer programs for people age 55 and over are available from Senior Employment Services at The New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA). There is a variety of opportunities to be more productive, enhance community life, and share skills and experience with others. Support services available are:

- Job Placement Assistance
- Resumé and Job Preparation
- Computer, Office Technology, Customer Service, and Food and

Restaurant Training Workshops

- Senior Community Employment
- Foster Grandparent Volunteers Program
- Intergenerational Programs
- Volunteer Support Project

To learn more, visit www.nyc.gov/aging, or call 311 (212-NEW-YORK outside the five boroughs).

DFTA is located at 2 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10007, and open Mon.- Fri., 9-5.

Newsworthy Notes

In Memory of Glenn Roberts. Longtime TBA member Glenn Roberts passed away on May 7, 2009. His wife, Judy Roberts, will dedicate a bench in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in his memory. He will be missed.

Katharine Hepburn: In Her Own Files. The collection documents the actress’s life and stage career from the late 1920s through the mid-1990s, including correspondence and hundreds of photographs, and typescripts: Mon., 12-8; Tues., 11-6; Wed., 11-6; Thu., 12-8; Fri., 11-6; Sat., 10-6; Sun., closed. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Billy Rose Theatre Division, 40 Lincoln Center Plaza, 212-870-1630.

Pershing Square Plaza. Every weekday, the plaza is open on the southbound lanes of Park Avenue between 41st and 42nd Streets, through October, weather permit-

ting. The public seating promenade next to 120 Park Avenue is open weekdays, 11-3 for bag lunches, conversations, book reading, and sun-worshipping. The outdoor café is open for dining and drinks on weekdays, noon-10:30.

New York Foundation for Senior Citizens Home Sharing Program. The program matches compatible people throughout the city’s five boroughs in shared living arrangements in dwellings rented or owned by one or more of the participants, with careful screening. One of the “match mates” must be age 60 or over; hosts can be age 55 or older. Additionally, the foundation runs a Respite Care Program that provides affordable, private pay, in-home care for elderly persons whose caregivers require short-term relief. For more information regarding these programs, call 212-962-7559.

Leisurely Crowds Attend TBA Street Fair

By MEG LAPORTE

Good weather greeted a good turnout at the 2009 TBA Street Fair on Sunday, June 21. The fair, featuring vendors of all kinds, lined Lexington Avenue between 42nd and 54th Streets, where a relaxed crowd of New Yorkers and tourists ambled, shopped and enjoyed the multi-ethnic food. In addition to the vendors of tee-shirts, socks, lingerie, leather, linens, jewelry, and Ipod/cell phone accessories, one booth offered "Oldie But Goodie" Caribbean reggae CDs, and a concession from Massachusetts sold chowder and lobster rolls. Mid-afternoon visitors were fêted with music of the Meetles, a 60's tribute band/meet-up group, whose live set of Beatles hits included, "Yesterday," "I Want to Hold Your Hand," and "I Saw Her Standing There."



A raffle, awarded during a five o'clock cloudburst, helped the TBA raise funds with 25 prizes generously contributed by Turtle Bay merchants. The proceeds are donated to nonprofit community groups.

We thank the generous local businesses who donated raffle prizes.

- Vanderbilt YMCA, one adult membership
- Hilton Casino Resort in Atlantic City, one night's stay
- Country Bank, \$200 savings bond
- Roundabout Theatre, a pair of tickets
- Smart Workout, four 3-Class Packs

Gift certificates from:

- Destino Restaurant
- Jubilee Restaurant
- La Mangeoire
- Padre Figlio
- Pescatore Restaurant
- San Martin Restaurant
- Wollensky Grill
- Lia Schorr, for a Facial/Pedicure and for a Massage



- Salon Amici, for Haircut/Shampoo
- Parnell's Pub
- Caterina's Restaurant
- Beekman Liquors
- Come Again
- Buttercup Bake Shop



Your Government At Work

The **New York State Department of Health** has issued a New York Prescription Saver (NYP\$) drug discount card that can reduce the cost of prescriptions for lower income New Yorkers who are disabled or between the ages of 50 and 64. The annual income limits for the program are \$35,000 for singles and \$50,000 for married persons. Members can save as much as 60% on generics and 30% on brand name drugs. To obtain an application, call 1-800-888- 6917 or visit the NYP\$ website at www.nyprescriptionsaver.fhsc.com.

Council Member **Jessica Lappin's** legislation requiring restaurants to educate their staffs about the dangers of food allergies has been passed.

Legislation, pursued by Council Speaker **Christine Quinn** and Council Member **Lappin**, has been passed to make it easier for police to arrest individuals who block

clinic entrances and try to prevent women from accessing safe reproductive health care services.

Assemblyman **Jonathan Bing's** legislation to facilitate the renovation of P.S. 59 and the High School of Art and Design on East 57th Street recently passed both houses of the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature. The project will create commercial and residential development, and a new school complex that will produce a net gain of 830 school seats for East Midtown and the Upper East Side.

Assemblyman **Jonathan Bing** joined **Mayor Michael Bloomberg** and **Governor David Paterson** in announcing \$29 million in federal stimulus funding to support more than 17,000 summer jobs and internships for city youth, bringing the total summer youth employment in the city to over 51,000, a gain of 8,000 compared to

Summer 2008.

Assemblyman **Bing** is funding Summer Playground Associates at Twenty-Four Sycamores Park, on York Avenue between 60th and 61st Streets, and MacArthur Park, between 48th and 49th Streets at the FDR Drive. Associates will develop activities for children and families, and work with community groups, starting in early July through the end of August, Tuesday-Saturday. To participate, contact the District Office at 212-605-0937.

The Assembly recently passed **Bing's** legislation to allow New York State taxpayers to make a gift to the New York State Council on the Arts through a check-off on their personal income taxes. The bill has been introduced in the State Senate by **Senator Jose M. Serrano**.

Assemblyman **Bing** has issued his yearly
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Art & Culture

JAPAN CUTS. Third annual Festival of New Japanese Film, celebrates films ranging from blockbusters and art-house hits to cutting-edge independents and innovative animations. Tues., June 30 through Sun., July 12. General admission tickets are \$12/\$8 Japan Society members. 333 East 47th Street, between First and Second Avenues. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the box office at 212-715-1258 or visit www.japansociety.org.

Music at Saint Bartholomew's.

Works by Felix Mendelssohn, featuring two of the city's finest choirs. Sun., July 12, 11:00 a.m. service, Saint Bartholomew's Church, Park Avenue at 51st

Street. Free. For information, call Street Bart's Central: 212-378-0222.

Music at Saint Peter's Church.

International Women in Jazz, Monday evenings through November 9, check church calendar for exceptions. *Jazz on the Plaza*, Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., through August 27. *Seasons of Love*: Willie-Mae Perry with Frank Owens and the Frank Owens Trio, Fri., July 17, 7:30 p.m. *Piano Quartet Recital*, Sat., July 29, 8 p.m., *Classical Concert*, trumpet, violin and organ, Wed., August 5, 7 p.m. Saint Peter's Church, Lexington Avenue at 54th Street, 212-935-2200, www.saintpeters.org.

Altogether Elsewhere. Encaustic and acrylic mixed-media paintings by Deborah Winiarski. This is the first solo exhibition in NYC of this important artist's



work. From June 25. Gallery hours 9-7 daily. Narthex of Saint Peter's Church, Lexington Avenue at 54th Street, 212-935-

2200, www.saintpeters.org.

Kaleidoscope. Paintings by Harald Schioldborg Jr., one of Norway's most promising contemporary artists. Mon.-Thurs., 12-7, Fri.-Sun., 1-5. On view through September 16. Trygve Lie Gallery is located at The Norwegian Church, 317 East 52nd Street, between First and Second Avenues, 212-319-0370, www.trygveliegallery.com.



Government *continued from page 7*

Summer Reading Challenge to East Side pre-school and grade-school children. Students reading 15 minutes a day for at least 40 days in July and August will receive a New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading Certificate. More information about this program is available at local libraries or by calling the District Office at 212-605-0937.

Council Member **Dan Garodnick** has released a report about the Lexington Avenue subway line, "Left Stranded: How

Overcrowded 4/5/6 Trains Are Leaving East Side Riders Behind." The study demonstrates that further service cuts to the line cannot be sustained. Garodnick also testified against fare increases for Access-A-Ride. In response, the MTA eliminated the proposed fare hikes.

The New York State Senate has passed legislation, co-sponsored by Senator **Liz Krueger**, expanding the income eligibility of the EPIC (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage) program. The bill is currently awaiting action in the Assembly.

Event Calendar

■ Tuesday August 4 Night Out Against Crime

Including entertainment by The Blue Smoke Rock & Roll Band, featuring an Elvis impersonator, and delicious barbecue, compliments of Outback Steakhouse. Meet at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza at 5:00 p.m. The event will end at 9:00 p.m. Contact 17th Precinct: 212-826-3228.



TBA MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Yes, I want to join the Turtle Bay Association to help support our community's quality of life.

Annual Membership Dues

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacesetter \$250 |

Name _____

Address _____ Apt _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail _____

☐ I would like to become more involved in TBA activities.

Please make your check payable to Turtle Bay Association.

Mail to: Turtle Bay Association, 224 E. 47th St., New York, NY 10017

BOOK ORDER FORM

Manhattan's Turtle Bay Story of a Midtown Neighborhood

A Contemporary History of Turtle Bay
Arcadia Publishing • 160 pages; 50 photos

\$15.00

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for ____ book/s,
plus \$3 per book for postage/handling

Make check payable to Turtle Bay Association
Mail to: Turtle Bay Association, 224 East 47th Street,
New York, NY 10017

Sales Proceeds Benefit the Turtle Bay Association