



Community Board Six Manhattan



East Midtown News and Events, and CB6 Activities

December 10, 2013

News

What the expanded Asser Levy Playground will look like

The [Asser Levy Playground](#) is [being expanded with the creation of a new active recreation area](#) on the former Asser Levy Place between East 23rd and 25th Streets. Neighborhood residents will be able to use it for a diverse mix of outdoor sports and activities in what previously was an underutilized two block long street. New park features will include an artificial turf field, exercise track, adult fitness equipment, benches, tables, drinking fountains, park lighting and trees. The Asser Levy Recreation Center's close proximity to the new park space will provide opportunities for outdoor programming. The conversion is connected to a planned United Nations expansion in part of Robert Moses Playground at 42nd Street and First Avenue. Funding for this project was provided by Council Member Daniel Garodnick and the United Nations Development Corporation. The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2014. For a peek at what the expanded park will look like, here's a Parks Dept. [presentation to CB6](#) from October 2012.

Extension of Asser Levy Park now under construction



Elected officials and neighborhood residents recently joined NYC Parks Department to celebrate the groundbreaking for [the new park space on Asser Levy Place](#). In attendance were State Senators Liz Krueger and Brad Hoylman, Council Member Garodnick, NYC Parks Commissioner Veronica White, Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh, who rode a Citi Bike to the event, Manhattan Borough Parks Commissioner William Castro, and CB6 chair Sandro Sherrod, at the podium. See more [pictures at our Facebook page](#).

Corner of 42nd St and 2nd Ave. Named "Nelson & Winnie Mandela Corner" in 1984



This week, the world honors the legacy of Nelson Mandela. [Mayor Edward Koch](#) honored Mr. Mandela's fight against apartheid in South Africa by installing a street sign on the southeast corner of E. 42nd St. and 2nd Ave. in 1984 - across from the South African mission to the UN. The NYC Council Parks Committee [formally approved it in 1985](#). The image above shows [proponents of the renaming](#). Below is the sign today, which is maintained by Grand Central Partnership.



SantaCon to skip Midtown, heading to East Village

SantaCon, the annual holiday bar crawl that draws thousands of heavily drinking costumed revelers, usually doesn't announce its route until the day before the Dec. 14 event. This year, [event organizers have announced](#) it will start in the East Village and

end in Brooklyn.

Bumpy road scheduled for repair



The CB6 office received a report from Board Member Lyle Frank that north of the crosswalk on First Ave. between 23rd and 24th Street, patchy repairs left large bumps in the roadway, resulting in loud noises from vehicles passing over them. The site has been referred to DOT's Street Maintenance Division for repair. [Contact us](#) with your service requests.

More Bicycle Parking Racks Coming to CB6

The following bicycle parking rack locations were recommended by local residents and business owners, and have been approved by NYC DOT: 173 3rd Ave., 310 3rd Ave., 315 E. 56th St., 330 E. 59th St., 341 E. 22nd St., 391 2nd Ave., 397 1st Ave., 400 E. 58th St., 719 2nd Ave., 721 2nd Ave., 817 2nd Ave., and 821 2nd Ave. These will not be Citi Bike share stations, [which can be found here](#). To suggest additional rack locations contact CB6.

NYC's bike share program [proves safer than expected](#).

History of Police Academy site

In our last newsletter, we reported that the CB6 Board and area residents hope that the facility now housing the NYPD Police Academy at 235 East 20th Street will be converted to use as a public school when the Academy is relocated to Queens next year. Area resident Dr. Susan Mirow wrote that before the Academy was built, the location used to be the site of PS 50, which she attended during the 1940s and 1950s.

East 58th Street Water Main Project Construction Updates

As part of the implementation of the Third Water Tunnel, a new water main is being installed on and around East 58th Street. [Check here](#) for the latest construction

updates.

November Minutes from Community Board 6 Committees

The [Land Use and Waterfront Committee](#) discussed renewal of special permits for the Solow project at 685 First Avenue, and heard a presentation on the East Midtown waterfront project.

The [Parks, Landmarks and Cultural Affairs Committee](#) reviewed proposed renovations at 78 Irving Place in the Gramercy Park landmark District, and heard an update from the Parks Department.

The [Public Safety, Environment and Transportation Committee](#) discussed the installation of a speed bump and stop sign at East 26th Street off the FDR service road, and a DOT application for a Bolt bus stop on First Avenue and 38th Street. Inspector Piekarski from NYPD, along with representatives from the 13th and 17th Precincts, gave a presentation on traffic enforcement, bicycles and pedestrian safety.

The [Health and Education Committee](#) heard a presentation on the new Mount Sinai Health System, which was created from the combination of The Mount Sinai Medical Center and Continuum Health Partners, including Beth Israel Medical Center. The NYS Attorney General's Office released "[Smart Seniors](#)" a handbook discussing topics such as financial scams, internet safety, identify theft, elder abuse, and medicare fraud.

The [Housing, Homeless and Human Rights Committee](#) discussed Intro 1127-2013, a NYC Council bill which would limit the number of shelters in Community Districts, and inclusionary housing at several development sites.

The [Business Affairs and Street Activities Committee](#) reviewed a number of liquor license applications.

Events

Free performance of Handel's Messiah, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 PM

[Turtle Bay Music School](#), 244 East 52nd Street. Vocalists and strings players of all ages and levels of ability are welcome to participate in this performance. A festive reception and artist meet-and-greet will follow.

Blessing of the animals service, Sunday, Dec. 15

Bring your animal companion. Church of the Covenant, 310 East 42nd St. 6 - 7 PM, doors open at 5:30. Contact David Michel at 917-573-3296 or faithinactionNYC@gmail.com.

Project Renewal Scan Van Offers Free Mammograms, Monday, Dec. 16

On December 16, from 1:30 to 4:30 PM, the [Project Renewal Scan Van](#) will be in front of Stuyvesant Town at First Avenue between 16th and 17th Streets be offering free mammograms to women 40 and over who have not had a mammogram in the past year. All insurance plans are accepted, and co-payments and deductibles are waived. Mammograms are free for uninsured women over 40. NYS Senators Liz Kreuger and Brad Hoylman are co-sponsors. Appointments are required. Call (800) 564-6868.

Services

Got a question?

Please [contact the CB6 office](#) with your questions and service requests.

See previous CB6 newsletters

Visit [our newsletter archive page](#). Our [resource page](#) also has directories of community organizations, senior services, and elected officials.

At the library

In December, the Kips Bay branch of the NYC Public Library has a number of afternoon movie screenings and computer classes. There are frequent events for babies and toddlers as well as senior exercise classes. [See the calendar](#).