

esna EXTRA

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

The Bulletin of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association

[Volume 33]

www.esna-nyc.net

[Fall 2008]

ESNA Tapped to Host Mayor's One-and-Only Upper East Side Town Hall Meeting

For 60 minutes, on September 23, Mayor Mike held a standing-room only audience at the Lighthouse International, on E. 59th Street, captivated by his recollections of his first years in the city as a resident of E 66th Street and then by his mastery of the complexities facing New York today.

At the invitation of the Mayor's office, the evening was organized by ESNA, the 19th Precinct Community Council, the Holmes Houses on E. 91st Street and Lighthouse International who each were asked to invite 40 guests. The baked goods, coffee and bottled water were provided by Butterfield Market of Lexington Avenue.

When the Mayor entered the room, he was welcomed by Barry Schneider, ESNA president and master of ceremonies for the event, who said, "As I look around the room, and see leaders

of government, the health care community, civic and cultural organizations, I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever been gathered together on the Upper East Side —



with the possible exception of when Michael Bloomberg dines alone."

When the Mayor came to the lectern, he acknowledged the elected officials in the room and then began by addressing, without notes, the issues of widespread interest to the community — the economic downturn, education, public safety and the city's

infrastructure. On the economy, he stated that "we'll have to learn to do more with less". Taxes may have to be raised and cuts in spending will have to be made. The Mayor feels that any problem can be



solved if children are well educated in good schools. He pointed out that New York's diverse population creates a great challenge; 170 different languages are spoken by the students' parents. During his tenure, the gap between ethnic groups success in school has narrowed, and teachers' salaries have risen 43 percent. When he took office in 2002, 12,000 of the 80,000 total teachers quit

each year. In the last two years, teacher resignations have dropped to 5,000 per year. And 50,000 people from elsewhere in the U. S. have applied to teach in NYC.

He proudly related that the city is currently rated the 15th safest of the nation's largest cities. Crime in the 19th Precinct is down 35% since 2001. The Mayor concluded his remarks by noting that the city's infrastructure is in good shape- new schools are being built and older school buildings are being improved; the construction of the third water

Continued on page 2

Welcome, Council Member Lappin, to the East 60s!

ESNA extends a hearty greeting to our new neighbor, Council Member Jessica Lappin. Representing the 5th Council District, Council Member Lappin recently moved her district office to 330 East 63rd Street, #1K.



The *NEW* telephone number for the district office is 212 980-1808.

ESNA Salutes These New Merchant Members

Commercial Enterprises

Bagel Express II, all the fixin's, and more, **2nd Ave. & 64th Street**

Fast Clean, full service dry cleaning and laundering, **E. 65th Street bet 1st and 2nd Ave.**

Kate Broadbent, ladies' alterations, by appointment **212-861-0284**

ZC Cleaners II, same day dry-cleaning and laundry, **E. 65th Street bet 1st and York Ave.**

Candidates' Forum

Once again this year, ESNA co-sponsored a Candidates Forum held on Sunday, October 26 at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House. The annual event gives the community the opportunity to hear what those running for office plan to do to represent us. The event gives the candidates the opportunity to debate the issues and to let us know what they stand for. This year's forum featured incumbent Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D) and her opponents Robert Heim (R,C) and Isiah Matos (Libertarian); NY State Senator Liz Krueger (D); NY State Assemblymember Jonathan L. Bing (D) and his challenger David B. Casavis (R), and NY State Assemblymember Micah Z. Kellner (D).

Your Blood Donation Urgently Needed

The New York Blood Center is in urgent need of blood donors to meet the demand for blood. Call 1-800- 933-



BLOOD (2566) to arrange an appointment for a safe, easy and life-giving donation. There is simply no substitute for voluntarily donated blood. Without volunteer donors, our community would not have an adequate community blood supply. The NY Blood Center is located at 310

E. 67th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues.

tunnel is on target, and of the city's more than 700 bridges only two footbridges are substandard – and those will be brought up to a state of good repair in the immediate future.

The Mayor then turned the microphone over to Barry Schneider, ESNA president, who continued as master of ceremonies for the rest of the evening. Mr. Schneider called on members of the overflow audience who had questions for the Mayor. Assisted by the more than 20 department commissioners, commission chairmen and members of the NYPD and FDNY who were seated on either side of him, the Mayor and his team fielded questions on education, construction, traffic congestion and the Summer Streets program.

When the meeting ended, those in the room who had never before seen the Mayor in person left with great admiration for his fluency and his command of myriad facts and figures when speaking off the cuff. But it was his animated presence that had the crowd buzzing as they filed out of the auditorium. (It should be noted that after the Mayor left, many of his commissioners remained to speak with members of the audience.)

Welcome P S 59!

213 E. 63rd Street update: The former nurses' dormitory of Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, long vacant and ever forbidding, is now the bright, new – temporary – home of P S 59. And now on the street you'll see scores of school-girls and school-



boys, with satchel and shining morning faces, skipping jauntily to school. For on September 2nd, Manhattan's first School Construction Authority-certified green school opened under the leadership of Principal Adele Schroeter and Assistant Principal Gabriel Feldberg. The new PS 59 includes a rooftop play area, a full-sized gymnasium, common learning areas, science laboratories, and spacious classrooms. The windows were

replaced and glazed with low E-coated glass, which helps keep heat out and light in. The building uses steam for heat. The building will serve as a temporary home for Public School 59, an elementary school. It will eventually relocate to 57th Street and 2nd Avenue. The 63rd street location will then become a new, 500-seat neighborhood school.

The ESNA community is most pleased to welcome the staff, faculty, students and parents of P. S. 59 to the vibrant East 60's!

Our 16th Clothing Drive - and the very best ever!

This year ESNA marked its 17th Annual Clothing Drive. And what a year it was! Your outstanding, record-breaking response produced over 6,300 pounds of much



needed - and much appreciated - winter clothing. For the 16th year in a row, ESNA volunteers joined together on Saturday, October 25 to sort and stuff over 181 bags of warm winter clothing for the needy. Seven participating buildings were collection locations for the generous donations of clothing

by our neighbors. Over 6,300 pounds of warm clothing were collected and transported in vans provided by Hertz and Avis. The vans distributed to six charities serving the less fortunate in our neighborhood.

Our thanks to the participating buildings and to the 40 ESNA volunteers who made it all possible.

All's Fair! – at ESNA's 11th Annual 60th Street Celebration

On August 10, ESNA launched the second decade of its annual street fairs on a delightful midsummer afternoon on



East 60th Street between Madison and Fifth Avenue. This popular event showcased a wide selection of goods offered by vendors; exotic jewelry, fashion eyewear, housewares, bric-a-brac, CDs, books, scarves and food, food, food! Everyone had a good time browsing through the

Fair making purchases while noshing many of the goodies offered. Highlight of the Fair was ESNA's White Elephant table where donations from ESNA members were plentiful. Everyone loves a bargain! The event was a great success, socially and financially for the neighborhood organization.

Contributors: Lee Kaye, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider, Julie Ziercher



Volunteers Wanted!

Call 212 713-5826 / email: info@esna-nyc.net

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

E-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

(Circle One)

Individual Coop/Condo Owner	\$25.00
Senior Coop/Condo Owner (65+)	\$20.00
Renter	\$15.00
Senior Renter (65+)	\$12.00
Townhouse Owner	\$50.00
Commercial/Business/Professional	\$50.00

Membership Dues Enclosed \$ _____

Contribution Enclosed \$ _____

ESNA's COMMITTEES
(Circle those you want to join.)

Beautification & Sanitation

City Services

Communications

Fund Development & Social Activities

Government & Community Relations

Mailing & Distribution • Membership



Mail your payment to:

ESNA, Inc.

1173A Second Avenue #110

New York, NY 10065