



W. 102nd Street Muggers Caught

By David L. Reich

For several weeks in December, our neighborhood appeared to be in the midst of a crime wave. Accurate reports and fuzzy rumors of muggings flew around. Posters went up on lampposts and in lobbies warning of danger.

Five people had been attacked and robbed in separate incidents. On W. 102nd Street between West End Avenue and Riverside Drive, two elderly men had been robbed ten days apart and one of them had been stabbed several times. Fortunately, the injuries were not life-threatening.

Then the police of the 24th Precinct, who had quickly gotten on the case with both uniformed patrols and plainclothes officers, got a break. At the end of December, another mugging occurred, this time on W. 88th St. near Central Park. A man was apprehended in the park with blood on his clothes. He confessed to the W. 88th St. attack and then, after further investigation, confessed to the two muggings on W. 102nd St. He also disclosed the identity of his accomplice, who was also apprehended. Both suspects are facing felony charges for the three muggings.

The attacker who stole a cellphone from a woman on W. 103rd St. was also caught. The other two muggings, one on Riverside Dr. (money and a cellphone taken) and the other on Broadway

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The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association *NEWSLETTER*

Spring Thoughts Turn to Annual Yard Sale

By Hedy Campbell

Last year's Yard Sale was a great success so we're doing it again. The Third Annual Block Association Spring Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 from 10 am to 5 pm on W. 103rd Street between West End Avenue and Riverside Drive. The rain date is Sunday May 7. Admission to the Yard Sale is free; vendors pay a fee to participate. There are three ways you can participate in this great event:

You can be a vendor: if you are a Block Association resident (that is, you live on W. 102nd or W. 103rd Sts. between Broadway and Riverside Dr. or on West End Avenue between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts.), you can rent one of the 66 available spaces, measuring 10 feet wide by 8 feet deep, for \$35; nonresidents pay \$50. The Block Association won't be providing tables so you will have to bring your own if you need one. This is a neighborhood event; no commercial vendors will be allowed to participate. Vendors last year were, across the board, pleased with how much extra cash they brought in by selling their accumulated stuff.

Each vendor will need to read the simple rules we have established for the Yard Sale and return a completed Vendor's Agreement. The rules and a link to the agreement can be found at www.w102-103blockassn.org, our

website for the Yard Sale. You can print a blank Vendor's Agreement form from the website. If that doesn't work for you, call Yard Sale organizer Anthony Bellov at (212) 663-6748 for assistance. Thank you, Anthony, for agreeing to oversee the vendors again.

You can help organize the sale: if you prefer not to sell, you can still be of enormous help. We need a few volunteers who can lend a hand in advance of the Yard Sale as well as help set up and clean up on the day of the event. There will be flyers to be made and posted, other publicity to be placed, silent auction and raffle prizes to be solicited, the refreshment table and Block Association booth to staff, some setup work in the morning before the sale starts, and dismantling and cleaning up in the afternoon when it is over. You get the idea. To get involved, please contact Marlene Lee, (212) 316-0434. If you

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BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Regular Block Association meetings are held twelve times a year, usually on the second Tuesday of every month.

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: 306 W. 102nd St.

The next three meetings are scheduled for Mar. 14, Apr. 11 and May 9.

Where Did Buildings Get Their Names?

By Ginger Lief

Within the borders of our Block Association, eleven of the seventy-three residential buildings were given names in addition to their street addresses when they were constructed. My research into how those buildings came to have their names has resulted in some interesting information about, if not actual explanations for, some of the names. This project is a work in progress; additional insight or information on this topic is welcome.

Beginning on W. 103rd Street, there's the **Friesland**, an eight-story apartment house at the northwest corner of W. 103rd Street and Broadway, which was built at the turn of the last century. Friesland is a northern province in the Netherlands. Next door, at 239 W.103rd Street, is the six-story **Haworth**. That happens to be the name of the Brontes' hometown in Yorkshire. Directly across the street from these two buildings is the former **Hotel Marseilles**. This ten-story building was designed in 1904-1905 as a fancy residential hotel and was named the Marseilles as a marketing move to attract European visitors. The building's name was changed to the Marseilles Apartments after its conversion to housing for senior citizens in 1980.

The **Hotel Alexandria**, at 250 W. 103rd Street, is a few doors west of the Marseilles. It was built in 1916-1917 as a fourteen-story apartment hotel. It was typical at the time to give buildings classical names, in this case Alexander the Great was the chosen honoree. The Alexandria was renamed Alexandria House following conversion to a co-op in the mid-1980s.

In 1928-1929, the **Master**, at the northeast corner of W. 103rd Street and Riverside Drive, was built as a twenty-four-story apartment hotel named in honor of the philosopher and painter, Nicholas Roerich. Initially, the Master Institute of United Arts, the Roerich

Museum, and the Corna Mundi International Art Centre occupied its lower three floors. When the building became a co-op in 1988, it was renamed the Master Apartments. Across the street, on the southeast corner of W. 103rd Street at 305 Riverside Drive, is **Clearfield**, a twelve-story apartment building built in 1909.

Moving on to W. 102nd Street we find **Rockledge Hall** at 299 Riverside Drive, built in 1910 and described as a twelve-story ornamental building. The name could be derived from the building's location, adjacent to Riverside Park with its sheer rock walls. Heading east on W. 102nd Street, we come to the nine-story **Ideal**, at 315 on the north side of the street. Back on the south side of the street, at 855 West End Avenue, is the eight-story **Standoche**.

One block further east is the **Broadmoor**, at the northwest corner of W. 102nd Street and Broadway. The Broadmoor was built in 1927 as a sixteen-story residential hotel. Its namesake was a famous hotel in Colorado Springs, originally built as a gambling casino in 1891 and later transformed into a grand resort in 1918. Facing the Broadmoor, on the southwest corner, is the **Magnolia**, built circa 1900. It is a six-story apartment building notable for its classical entrance.

Until 1963, when it was demolished and replaced by an apartment building, there was another named building in our Block Association area. The **Riverside Synagogue** stood at 310 W. 103rd Street, on the south side of the street between West End Avenue and Riverside Drive. It was founded and led from 1922 to 1952 by Rabbi Edward Tussman, whom Mayor James J. Walker in 1930 appointed as the first Jewish chaplain of the city's Fire Department.

If you can add to this project, please send email to me at vlief369@aol.com or call (212) 662-3257.

Spring Thoughts Turn to Yard Sale

Continued from Page 1

are a great baker and want to contribute something for the Bake Sale table, please contact me, Hedy Campbell, at (212) 865-8524. Thanks, Marlene, for taking the helm.

You can come and shop: it's fascinating to see what your neighbors bring to the table, so to speak. Last year there was an impressive array of items from gowns and jewelry to toys, books, CDs, games, small appliances, and artwork. No doubt you'll come home with some fabulous finds.

While you are browsing, check out the Block Association table for mugs and baseball caps decorated with our logo and postcards with scenes of old Broadway. And stop by the Bake Sale table for delicious, homemade cookies or a slice of cake.

Perhaps, after looking around, talking with the vendors, and encountering your neighbors, you'll unearth the most valuable treasure of all: a heightened sense of connecting with your community.

The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association Newsletter

Published four times a year.
Hedy Campbell and David L. Reich, co-editors. Comments and questions related to the Association or Newsletter are welcomed. Send US Mail to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025 or email to info@w102-103blockassn.org. Phone messages may be left at (212) 866-5769. Faxes may be sent to (212) 866-5916. Recent issues of the Newsletter may be viewed at [//www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm](http://www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm)

Orfeo Duo Receives Grant, Sets Events

The Orfeo Duo, Vita Wallace, violin and Ishmael Wallace, piano, have received a grant of \$4,353.83 from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council for their *What a Neighborhood!* project. Our Block Association again acted as fiscal sponsor in the grant application.

The project brings performances by the Orfeo Duo as well as original opera and other forms of music to the Manhattanville, Morningside Heights and Bloomingdale areas of upper Manhattan. Earlier events this year included music by neighborhood composers of Latin American heritage, Ishmael Wallace's chamber opera *Baggage*, a Black History Month celebration, and music of Brahms and his circle. Two events are scheduled for March 16 (at the Morningside Bookshop) and March 19 (at the Roerich Museum). For details, call (212) 222-2101 or check the website www.orfeoduo.com.

Block Association Officers Elected

Officers have been elected by the Block Association's Board of Directors to serve until the next annual meeting in November. The officers are: David L. Reich, chairman, Paul Arents, treasurer, and Ginger Lief, secretary/archivist. The Board thanked Marlene Lee, our former treasurer, for her excellent service over the past two years.

Carolers Resound Despite MTA Strike, Cold Weather

The mid-December bus and subway strike put the kibosh on many holiday activities but not, we're happy to report, the annual Winter Solstice caroling. The frigid air at 7 pm on Wednesday, December 21st was also no deterrent. Several dozen neighborhood residents, including Barney the Beagle, assembled in front of 865 West End Avenue, ready to wend their way through our blocks ushering in the lengthening days and the year-end holidays with songs of the season and enthusiasm.

Our group was ably led, as always, by Anthony Bellov—thank you, Anthony. With unflagging good cheer, Anthony unearths the song sheets, chooses our selections as we walk, graciously accommodates requests, remembers to bless each block with a chorus of "Dona Nobis Pacem" ("Give Us Peace"), and tries to keep us on key to boot. He also serves as music director when we get to 300 Riverside, dividing us into groups for alternating verses of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," and only raising the friendliest eyebrow when we sing out of turn.

Thanks also go to Seth Jucovy, manager of the Master Apartments, who for the I don't know how many-th year in a row, extended his building's hospitality to us for post-caroling refreshments. Kathy Ralph and Terri Chmurak, both Master residents, personally added

warmth, lending burners so that the apple cider would be steaming upon our return. Thanks to you both.

The Winter Solstice falls this year on Thursday, December 21st. We look forward to seeing and hearing even more of you then.

W. 102nd Street Muggers Caught

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(pocketbook taken), remain unsolved.

Late in January a woman walking on the west side of West End Avenue between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Streets had her purse taken at about 8:30 pm. Sam, the doorman on duty at 875 West End Ave., chased the thieves down W. 103rd St. but lost them. He called 911, the police arrived, and the victim was taken by car to try to find her attackers, but to no avail.

Your Block Association has taken several steps to improve security. We, and the W. 104th Street Block Association, have voiced our concerns to Deputy Inspector Fanning at the 24th Precinct. She has responded with added patrols of our area. We have sent a letter to brownstone owners asking them to review lighting around their buildings to ensure there are no dark places where muggers could hide. Our guard service is on heightened alert.

Residents are urged to report any suspicious situations to 911.

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New Neighbors?

By Marlene Lee

An apartment building for single parents with young children has been proposed for the vacant lot at 210 W. 102nd St. between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave. (several doors east of the Mamá Mexico restaurant). The affordable housing project was recently approved by Community Board 7's Committees on Land Use, Health and Human Services, and Housing, which met, along with interested citizens, on Feb. 15th at the American Museum of Natural History to hear presentations by Zeckendorf Development, the builder, and the Settlement Housing Fund.

Zeckendorf Development took title to the W. 102nd St. parcel at the same time as it took title to the Mayflower Hotel lot on Central Park West between W. 61st and W. 62nd Streets. Under the City's inclusionary housing policy, Zeckendorf will pay for and build an 11-story, 24-unit building to be managed by the Settlement Housing Fund, which has coordinated government programs and private funding in New York City for over thirty years. In exchange, Zeckendorf may build a larger building on the Mayflower site than it otherwise could.

If approved by the City, the W. 102nd St. building will accept tenants who meet specified educational requirements and who wish to pursue career goals and independence for themselves and their families. Settlement Housing's goal is to break the cycle of homelessness and

Landmark West! Applies for Grant

Landmark West! recently applied to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for a grant to conduct a comprehensive architectural and historical survey of the area from W. 96th to W. 110th St., between Riverside Park and Central Park. The Block Association provided a letter in support of the application, noting that we had long been involved in recording and preserving the history of our neighborhood.

poverty and help clients make a successful transition to stable, independent living. Tenants will pay affordable rent (Section 8, a Federal program) and their own utilities. They will be given from two to five years to gain self-sufficiency before finding permanent housing.

Two trained staff members and a building superintendent will be on site at all times. Three case workers will be assigned to the 23 families in the building. An outdoor play area behind the building is planned, along with benches and a pergola. Special interior spaces are to be set aside for family and after-school activities. Ongoing training and support will be funded by tenants' rents and Settlement Housing's fundraising activities, including foundation grants.

After an open discussion, members of the committees voted to reduce the height and set-back of the building. Minor changes in the façade were also recommended, to be implemented by the building architect, SLCE Architects.

Let There Be Light

It's been more than five months since the driver of a van lost control of his vehicle and plowed into the lamppost on the southeast corner of West End Avenue and W. 102nd St., knocking it over and destroying the cement wall in front of 856 West End Avenue. When the pole came down, it brought down the traffic lights and pedestrian signals as well as a single street lamp. Temporary traffic signals were quickly installed following the mid-September accident, and the wall has since been rebuilt and repainted. Only the ironwork remains to be reinstalled. Yet as the fall turned to winter, and the holidays came and went, no new streetlight appeared.

Shortly after the accident, in an effort to get the temporary light replaced with a new, permanent fixture, neighborhood residents began contacting the NYC Department of Transportation through calls to 311 and submissions on the DOT website. Repeatedly, the response on the website was that the job had been done, even though no change was made to the temporary traffic light. Then, in mid-December, Margaret Forgione, the Manhattan Borough Commissioner for DOT, wrote that the work would be done "within the next few weeks."

Finally, these efforts were rewarded: on Monday, January 23, a truck pulled up and in a matter of hours a proper lamppost supporting a new streetlight and permanent traffic signals was installed and all were operational.



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Bogart Recognition Moves Ahead

In December, we reported that Community Board 7 had resolved to add a secondary name to W. 103rd Street between Broadway and West End Ave. honoring actor and former resident Humphrey Bogart. We wrote that the next step would be action by the NYC Department of Transportation. We've since learned that the City Council must first include the renaming in a local law.

On November 1, CB7 sent its resolution to Phil Reed, then City Council representative for the 8th District, which includes the Bogart block. Although the City Council passed a law to rename 64 blocks throughout the city on November 20, the Bogart block was not among them. Reed did not run for re-election because of term limit restrictions. In a hotly contested Democratic primary,

Melissa Mark-Viverito beat the second-place finisher by 16 votes and then won the office in November. CB7 has now sent the resolution to Councilmember Mark-Viverito's office for inclusion in the next street renaming bill. She has promised her support.

On a related topic, a bill was recently introduced in the City Council (Int 0055-2006) "requiring the appropriate city agency to make available on the city's official website biographical information pertaining to all street name changes." The proposal was sponsored by sixteen members of the City Council, including Mark-Viverito and Inez Dickens, who each represents a part of the Block Association area, and was referred to the Committee on Technology in Government for further investigation.

If you'd like to weigh in on this proposal, you can contact the sponsors at www.nycouncil.info. Search for the bill by the number above and choose "Email Sponsors." Toward fulfilling the proposed requirement, the Block Association has submitted a brief bio of Humphrey Bogart to Ede Fox, Mark-Viverito's Legislative Director.

A street renaming bill is expected to be considered by the City Council and passed in April. In tandem, the New York City Housing Authority, which owns the building in which the Bogarts resided, is preparing a commemorative plaque. Once both of those actions have been taken, the Block Association hopes to organize a celebratory event in cooperation with Gary Dennis, proprietor of the Movie Place, who spearheaded the Bogart recognition.

Annual Spring Theater Party Being Planned

Our Annual Spring Theater Party, which is usually held in April, will be in May this year. This is the 29th season of Pan Asian Repertory, the oldest professional Asian-American theater company on the east coast. The power behind the success and vision is none other than our long-time friend and neighbor, the Artistic/Producing Director, Tisa Chang.

Pan Asian Rep will celebrate this anniversary with a Festival of New Works to run from May 4th to May 28th at the West End Theater, 263 W. 86th St. This festival will feature four promising young artists in their full-length, self-created solo works. You can read about this festival and the history of Pan Asian Rep at www.panasianrep.org.

Please watch for posters in the neighborhood announcing the date and other specifics. If you want to be notified as the theater party plans develop, please call Rosalyn at (212) 864-2165 or email her at rosalyn@clutterkit.com.

Annual Poetry Event in Riverside Park

Whether you're a creator or an appreciator of poetry, be sure to mark Saturday, April 29 on your calendar. That's when the annual Riverside Park Poetry Reading will take place this year. Beginning at 1:30 pm, poetry lovers will gather at "Franklin's Bench," in the island on Riverside Drive at W. 103rd Street. The bench commemorates Franklin Latner, a neighborhood composer and poet who died in 1998. Some chairs will be provided; feel free to bring one of your own, or a cushion or blanket to spread on the ground.

Should the weather be inclement, the group will move indoors to the Riverside Lobby of the Master Apartments (310 Riverside Drive). For more information, contact the Riverside Park Fund at mail@riversideparkfund.org or (212) 870-3070.

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Mama's Boys
Juan Rojas Campos and his brother Bernabe grew up with six brothers in a tiny Mexican village, where their mother taught them to cook. Now, with their brother-in-law, the hermanos have opened Mama Mexico, a festive cantina with a roster of frozen margaritas, a festive Mexican village life, and a steaming mariachi serenade. The extensive menu ranges from the traditional (nachos, burritos) to the less familiar (lighted marinated rack of lamb and red-snapper soup). (2577 Broadway, near 102nd Street.) Extract from New York magazine dated September 15, 1987.

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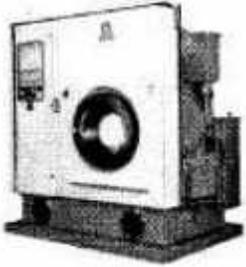
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How to Contact State and Local Officials in 2006

The elections last November 8th gave us a new borough president and two new City Council members (the Block Association area is split over two City Council districts). Our mayor and our US senators and representative remain the same, as do our NY State senator and assemblymember.

US Senate:

Charles Schumer

Office: 757 Third Ave., Suite 17-02
New York, NY 10017
Telephone: (212) 486-4430
Email form at: schumer.senate.gov

Hillary Clinton

Office: 780 Third Ave., Suite 2601
New York, NY 10017
Telephone: (212) 688-6262
Email form at: clinton.senate.gov

US House of Representatives:

District 15: Charles Rangel

Office: 163 W. 125 St., Suite. 737
New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 663-3900
Email: rangel@mail.house.gov

NY State Senate:

District 31: Eric T. Schneiderman

Office: 80 Bennett Ave., Ground Fl.
New York, NY 10033
Telephone: (212) 928-5578
Email: schneide@senate.state.ny.us

NY State Assembly:

District 69: Daniel J. O'Donnell

Office: 245 W. 104 St.
New York, NY 10025
Telephone: (212) 866-3970
Email: odonnell@assembly.state.ny.us

Mayor

Michael R. Bloomberg

Office: City Hall
New York, NY 10007
Telephone: 311 or, outside the city,
(212) NEW-YORK
Email form at:
nyc.gov/html/mail/html/mayor.html

New York City Departments

Telephone: 311
Online: nyc.gov

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer

Office: 1 Centre St.
New York, NY 10007
Telephone: (212) 669-8300
Email: bp@manhattanbp.org

NY City Council:

District 8: (From Broadway to West
End Ave.: north side of W. 102nd
St. and both sides of W. 103 St.)

Melissa Mark-Viverito

Office: 105 East 116th Street
New York, NY 10029
Telephone: (212) 828-9800
Email: viverito@council.nyc.ny.us

District 9: (rest of Block Assn. area)

Inez Dickens (as of end of March)

Office: 163 W.125th St., 7th fl.
New York, NY 10027
Telephone: (212) 788-7397
Email: guyon01@gmail.com

West Side Federation Honors Block Association With Community Service Award and Grant

It was with great pride that the board of the Block Association learned last fall that it would be recognized for its long history and varied accomplishments by the West Side Federation of Neighborhood and Block Associations. The Federation is an umbrella organization that works with Community Board 7 and other New York City government agencies to address important local concerns.

It was with even more excitement that a half-dozen board members attended the Federation's December 5 holiday party at the Mexican restaurant La Cocina (85th Street just east of Broadway), at which the honors were bestowed. The celebration brought together the extended family of local politicians, police officials, and Upper West Side community and business leaders to honor local community activists in an environment of easy camaraderie, cooperation and support — and good food and drink.

Miriam Febus, Federation president, presented the 2005 Community Service Award to Block Association chair David Reich. Addressing the Block Association, the award states: “[y]our sense of civic duty and commitment to improving the quality of life in our community has contributed to a better West Side.”

Other recipients of Federation recognition this year were the Honorable Gale Brewer, City Councilmember for the Upper West Side District 6, just south of our district, whose award was presented by recently elected Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, and Assistant Chief Raymond Diaz, Commanding Officer of Manhattan North, whose award was presented by Capt. (now Deputy Inspector) Kathleen Fanning, commander of our 24th Precinct.

In a surprise announcement from the Federation, retiring Detective Heidi Higgins received a plaque honoring her

service, which was presented by Fanning and the former commander of the precinct, Inspector James Dean. Det. Higgins had spent her entire career in the 24th Precinct, most recently in the Community Affairs office.

The Block Association is also the recent and grateful recipient of a \$500 grant from the Federation. The funds were earmarked for the purchase of new software for use in the production of our quarterly newsletter. Newsletter editor David Reich had been using PageMaker to produce our publication but that software is no longer supported by the manufacturer. Using the grant, we have now upgraded to InDesign, Adobe's follow-on desktop publishing product, and

acquired a package of commercial fonts.

Each year, twenty percent of the Federation's income is returned to the community in the form of grants to member associations for a variety of projects that enhance life in the neighborhoods. The only requirement for a member organization to be eligible for a grant is that a representative of the organization attend monthly Federation meetings. Marlene Lee performs that function on the Block Association's behalf. In the past, the Block Association received funds from the Federation for the purchase of the eye-catching green banner that signals our presence at various events such as the annual meeting, the Halloween parade, and the annual Yard Sale.



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On Broadway

Openings and Closings: ♦♦The interior of the former **Empire Szechuan Gourmet** restaurant on the southeast corner of W. 97th St. and Broadway has been gutted. The construction site is now surrounded by a plywood shed. The eventual occupant will be **Bank of America**, which already has a similar large branch on Broadway at W. 107th St. and an unattended ATM shop on Broadway at W. 102nd St. ♦♦The new Japanese restaurant, **Tokyo Pop**, is still being fitted out on the east side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts. in the former **Eden Café** space. The owners of Tokyo Pop currently operate **Café du Soleil** directly across Broadway. Opening is planned for late March. ♦♦Two doors south of Tokyo Pop, the **99¢ Store** on the east side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th St. is closing for renovation.

Going Down, Going Up: ♦♦On the weekend of February 18, a huge Kodiak crane was erected on the east side of Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Streets to be used in the construction of Extell's 38-story condo, **Ariel East**. The crane consists of two towers, one inside the other. The outer tower is 80 feet tall, initially, and bolted to a massive concrete pad in the ground. The inner tower is about 100 feet tall and can move vertically within the outer tower. It starts out about 20 feet above the ground so the whole structure is 120 feet tall. An operator's cab and the deck holding the hoisting motor and the counterweights are on a rotating platform that rests on the top of the inner tower. A jib stretches out above and in front of the cab to provide another 120 feet or so in height for lifting buckets of concrete and other materials. Additional 40-foot sections of the outer tower can be lifted into place in two pieces and put together on top of the existing

outer tower like a clam shell. Then the inner tower hydraulically climbs further up the now taller outer tower. For stability, the crane will be tied to the building as the construction adds more floors. The building itself will be 396 feet tall. The crane is scheduled to be in place for about seven months. It will take about a week to dismantle it. The **Ariel West** site, across Broadway, has been ringing with the pounding of rock cutting for the sub-basements. Outer foundation walls and some slabs have been poured. In March, a similar crane will go up on this site as well. ♦♦A new road surface will *not* be going down on **W. 102nd St.** from Broadway to Riverside Dr. in 2006. Last August, Margaret Forgione, the Manhattan Borough Commissioner in the NYC Department of Transportation, responded to complaints about numerous potholes on the street by writing in an email that "102nd Street from Central Park West to Riverside Drive has been approved for resurfacing, most likely next year." However, Josh Orzeck, Forgione's Community Coordinator for Upper

Manhattan, reports that due to "budgetary reasons" and the priorities set by Community Board 7, resurfacing in 2006 will be limited to W. 64th St., W. 65th St., and Amsterdam Ave. from W. 60th to W. 90th St. within the CB7 area. Orzeck advised residents of W. 102nd St. to use 311 or the DOT website *nyc.gov/dot* to report potholes for repair. The web page *nyc.gov/html/dot/html/motorist/potholephotos.html* shows different types of street defects that can aid the viewer in making a precise report of the problem when using the linked online form. ♦♦The *NY Times* reported that the next-to-last building that once housed an **Automat** restaurant would be torn down. That would leave the last Automat building on the southeast corner of Broadway and W. 104th St. It is now occupied by a **Rite Aid** drugstore on the ground floor. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission has calendered the building for public hearing, which prevents permits for demolition or construction from being issued without notification; a hearing date has not yet been assigned.

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Landlords/Co-ops: 235 W. 102 St., 240 W. 102 St., 247 W. 102 St., 252 W. 102 St., 315 W. 102 St., 250 W. 103 St., 308 W. 103 St., 309 W. 103 St., 319 W. 103 St., 854 West End Ave., 855 West End Ave., 856 West End Ave., 858 West End Ave., 864 West End Ave., 866 West End Ave., 868 West End Ave., 872 West End Ave., 875 West End Ave., 878 West End Ave., 885 West End Ave., 299 Riverside

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Borough President Seeks to Reform Community Boards

Scott Stringer, the new Manhattan Borough President, following up on a major focus of his successful campaign, is seeking to shake up the borough’s Community Boards.

According to Stringer’s website:

- The Community Board appointment process is overly politicized and unsystematic;
- Community Board funds are distributed inequitably and without review;
- Boards operate with ongoing vacancies;
- Undisclosed lobbying is commonplace;
- Conflicts of interest laws have not been enforced, but rather ignored;
- Boards operate without any external requirement of assessment and evaluation.

To deal with these problems, Stringer has instituted a four-page questionnaire that all applicants must fill out. He has formed a “Community Board Reform Committee that will function as an independent screening panel for all board applicants.” Since land use is a major area of community board activity, Stringer is looking to assign urban planners to support each community board. His office is seeking state legislation to make conflict of interest laws more enforceable and to make the board members’ interests more visible to the public.

Stringer also hopes to provide more training for board members in areas such as land use procedures, and ethics. To support all these efforts, Stringer is seeking more funding from the city.