



Neighborhood Painters Spruce Up Hydrants

It was a warm, clear morning in late September when six Block Association volunteers became sidewalk artists to the delight of residents and passersby in our community.

Alan Septoff from W. 103rd St., John Hewitt, from West End Ave. and Stephanie, Raymond, Sabrina and Stan from the St. Luke's House on W. 102nd St. had signed up to follow the example of Ed Coffman who had earlier painted the hydrant in front of 855 West End Ave. The objects of their attention were the twelve other hydrants in our district on W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts., Broadway and Riverside Dr. in various states of shabbiness. They worked with donated silver and black paint, brushes

Continued on Page 3



Photo: David L. Reich

Stan applies a final touch-up to the hydrant on W. 103rd St. at Broadway.

The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association

NEWSLETTER

Monster Turnout Enlivens Our Halloween Tradition

By Hedy Campbell

One of my daughters likes to say, "Many idle hands make light work in the devil's workshop." Although I hate to contradict her, this year it was many busy hands that made light work in the devil's workshop of Halloween.

And it was a good thing, too. The Block Association's annual Halloween parade and party has become more and more popular every year. Even 200

trick-or-treat bags weren't quite enough for the crowd of kids parading around the block. The costumes were cleverer than ever, as well; the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty were two standouts among them.

Please join me in a round of applause for the owners of those busy hands starting with Stacey Lauren, who served as co-chair. Terence Hanrahan created new CDs to replace our outdated cassettes and led the parade in full tie-dye splendor. From St. Luke's House, Ellen, Ron, Raymond, M. Morales and Stan helped with setup and Chef Cheryle baked a wonderful cake. Cherie Tredanari donated 200 apples and helped pack the bags with reliable good humor. Matt Petosa and Martha Cooper shot more beautiful photographs than we could hope to publish. Janet Harvilchuck, who at the eleventh hour was the willing reader at story time, delighted the dozen or so young 'uns who stayed and listened. Jill Chase, of the extra-

Continued on Page 4



Photo: Martha Cooper

Only on Halloween can the Empire State Building cast a shadow on West End Ave.

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 Dec. 11, Jan. 8 and Feb. 12.

Transplanted Malaysia Grill Takes Root on W. 104th St.

By Terence Hanrahan

After Saigon Grill left its spot on Broadway at W. 87th St. for Amsterdam Ave. seven years ago, Malaysia Grill sprouted up in its former location. Now, due to rising rents on Broadway, Malaysia Grill has moved to the south side of W. 104th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave. across from the post office. The cozy wood-paneled restaurant replaces a travel agency and driving school.

Our introduction to Malaysian cuisine was a melding of dishes with Chinese and Thai flavorings. Yet the use of the turnip-like jicama in several dishes distinguishes it from both. We sampled a variety of appetizers. Among them, the seafood broth shrimp soup was both sweet and sour, with just enough spice to keep it interesting. Especially on a cold day, the plentiful shrimp, diced peppers, celery, carrots, mushrooms and pineapple chunks make this a hearty starter. The delicate and delicious steamed crystal shrimp dumplings, served six to a portion, held a surprise: a whole shrimp tucked within the outer

layer of dough. *Caveat* eater: taken whole, they're quite a mouthful. Satay is another good bet. We had a slight preference for the beef, although the chicken was just fine as well. Order one or the other, or a combo of two of each.

We found another unexpected pleasure in the salad course. The version with shrimp included a large bed of greens with julienne jicama, carrots, green peppers, sliced mango, mandarin oranges, and four large grilled shrimp tossed in a light ginger vinaigrette. It could have served as a complete lunch.

Unless you're really hungry, the generous main course portions will likely leave you with something to take home. As at many restaurants, red chili peppers on the menu mark the hot and spicy dishes, but if you truly like your food spicy, say so when you place your order. The ginger beef, for example, had tender slices of steak sautéed with carrots, celery, mushrooms, watercress, and thinly sliced ginger with some spicy flavor but lacked the kick we'd eagerly awaited. Skip the standard brown or white rice. Instead, try the coconut rice; its subtle flavor works well. Chicken

Nenas, served in a hollowed out pineapple, was another excellent choice with tender chicken pieces and the fresh flavors of vegetables and pineapple. Kari Udang (curry shrimp) was a mixed bag: the string beans were perfectly steamed, the shrimp were a little overcooked. Had we eaten a little less and brought home a little more, we might have sampled desserts.

The moderate noise level and absence of music make this an easy spot in which to converse. The wait staff is friendly and efficient. Jimmy, Malaysia Grill's owner and head chef (he prepares all of the sauces personally), came over and introduced himself, yet another gesture that contributed to the welcoming atmosphere.

Malaysia Grill is located at 224 W. 104th St.; phone: (212) 579-1333. Appetizers range in price from \$3.25 to \$5.95; entrees are between \$7.95 and \$14.95. Hours are 11 am to midnight, seven days a week. Delivery is available. Wine and beer are offered at moderate prices. Credit cards are accepted.

Play It Safer As the Days Get Shorter

The 24th Precinct continues to report reductions in crime in our neighborhood. However, a robbery, possibly involving a weapon, in the early hours of November 6 at W. 103rd St. and Riverside Dr., highlights the need for residents to take basic precautions for their personal safety.

Be aware of your surroundings when you walk down the street, especially at night. Talking on a cell phone may provide a feeling of comfort but it can be a distraction. Where possible, walk on well-lighted sidewalks. If you notice that a streetlight is out on your block, call 311 to report the problem and let

the Block Association know too.

If you notice people loitering or behaving suspiciously, that's another reason to call 311. The operator will record your complaint and pass it on quickly to the police precinct. In fact, if you were to call the precinct directly, you would be told to call 311 because that feeds into the system that dispatches officers to where they are needed.

Of the crimes that occur in our neighborhood, many are thefts of property such as a stolen purse in Starbucks or a package taken by breaking into a parked car. Don't ask for trouble by leaving such items unattended and in view.

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.bloomingtondale.org/newsletter102-103.htm](http://www.bloomingtondale.org/newsletter102-103.htm)

Dust Off Your Jingle Bells, Come Sing With Us!

Although it is the longest of the year, the dark night of the winter solstice has traditionally been brightened by a joyful choir of Block Association members who go caroling through our streets. Thanks once again to choirmaster Anthony Bello's steadfast generosity, this year will continue that glow.

Come join us on Friday, December 21 starting at 7 pm in front of 865 West End Ave. We'll entertain our neighbors with cheery seasonal songs and raise our voices for our neighborhood and the world with "Dona Nobis Pacem," ("give us peace,") on each block. At 300 Riverside Dr., we'll practice our synchronized singing skills with "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and finish with warm cider and light refreshments in the Master Apartments lobby, courtesy of the Master residents and manager Seth Jucovy. To lend a hand or for more information, call Hedy Campbell at (212) 865-8524. All are welcome!

Neighborhood Painters Spruce Up Hydrants

Continued from Page 1

and gloves provided by Ernest Cavagnaro, Rick Nelson and Barry Alexander of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. Also, contributing to the success of the project was Loallen Fahie, manager of Janovic Paints on Broadway between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts. He graciously gave us a dozen quart containers with lids that we used to transport the paint to each of the hydrants.

Assisting the painters was Susan Desel of W. 102nd St. who installed plastic sheeting, also courtesy of DEP, to protect the sidewalk around each hydrant as well as "Wet Paint" signs identifying the work as a Block Association project.

The volunteers' work was admired by people walking by and they were asked to come paint hydrants in other locations! Weeks later, these sparkling fixtures shine on our sidewalks as symbols of neighborly cooperation and care.

In a follow-up to the day's activities, DEP was asked to replace missing four-inch caps on two of the newly painted hydrants on W. 102nd St. just east and west of West End Ave. Within two days of the request, one of the caps was in place. The other was delayed because a few drops of paint had accidentally gotten on the threads of the open pipe. A quick pass with a wire brush by a Block Association member took care of that problem. The second cap was installed the next day and John Hewitt painted the new caps to match the others.

In the spring, the Block Association plans to repaint the mail storage boxes in our district. If you have any suggestions for similar projects, let us know!

"New Amsterdam" TV Shoot Closes W. 103rd St. Company Makes Donation to Block Association

Once again there's a disruption to neighborhood life: first the signs go up and then the huge trailers roll in. Wires snake along the sidewalks and curbs. Pedestrians and drivers are blocked from their usual routes. It's all in a day's (or night's) work for the movie and TV people who can't seem to get enough of New York City scenes.

Fortunately, some of the production

companies recognize the upset they bring with them and seek to thank the local folks for their indulgence. That's what the location crew for "New Amsterdam," a new show slated for Fox TV, has done for our block association and the W. 104th St. Block Association. Each group has been given \$500 to be used in making our blocks even more attractive. We thank them for the gift.

Busters NYC

Café and Caterers



If What You Eat Matters

Spa-tinental Cuisine

Food That Makes You Feel Good

Tuesday - Friday
11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Saturday & Sunday 11:00AM - 5:00PM
892 Amsterdam Avenue (103/104)
New York, NY 10025

212-665-5045



WOHLFARTH & ASSOCIATES, INC. REAL ESTATE

Rick Wohlfarth

890 West End Avenue
New York, NY 10025-3526



Office: 212-666-1600, ext. 10

Fax: 212-662-5865

Cellular: 917-882-0815

Residence: 212-316-9128

e-mail: fpwohlfarth@wohlfarth.com

Lauren Stahl

Reiki Master

Feng Shui Consultant

235 West 102nd Street

New York, NY 10025

Tel. 917-670-1327

Member of the Reiki Alliance

Treasurer Reports Healthy Fiscal Condition

At the annual meeting of the Block Association on November 15, our treasurer, Marlene Lee, reported that income from contributions, Newsletter ads and Yard Sale activities was somewhat greater than our expenses for guard service, the Newsletter, beautification, neighborhood contributions, etc. See details below.

Opening Balance (11/1/2006)	\$20,803.83		
Closing Balance (10/31/2007)	24,715.39		
Net increase	3,911.56	EXPENSES	
INCOME		Contributions, dues	\$750.00
Building contributions	\$15,127.00	Beautification	314.47
Individual contributions	22,242.00	Yard sale	139.90
Newsletter ads	3,565.00	Other event expense	70.18
Baked goods	664.50	Post office box and postage	154.00
Postcards, caps, mugs	20.00	Web hosting	59.95
Raffle, silent auction	1,713.00	Contribution envelopes	552.85
Yard sale spaces	<u>2,245.00</u>	Newsletter production	2,847.18
Total Income	\$45,576.50	Security guard (53 wks)	<u>36,776.41</u>
		Total Expenses	\$41,664.94

Annual Meeting Features Performance of Neighborhood Composers' Music

In a departure from previous annual meetings that included talks on topics of interest to the neighborhood, this year's event offered instead a short concert by two local performers, Ishmael Wallace, pianist of the Orfeo Duo, and Beth Anne Hatton, soprano.

They presented works of George Gershwin (once a resident of W. 103rd St.) and Franklin Latner, a poet and composer who lived on W. 102nd St., to the delight of an audience that had probably not heard Latner's work before. Thanks to the generosity of board member, Hedy Campbell, we listened to the performance in the comfort of

her lovely apartment on W. 102nd St.

The business part of the annual meeting included a report by chair David Reich on the previous year's major activities: the quarterly Newsletter, treewell planting, a very successful Yard Sale, the Halloween parade, and hydrant painting (see articles on Page 1), the newly formed "Green Team" (see Page 8) and holiday caroling (see Page 3). David noted that our finances are in good shape with more building owners contributing than ever before. Individual contributions have held steady but participation is low. Efforts will be made in the coming year to enlist more

members. Last year's board plus one new member was elected for next year. After the concert, David asked the audience to bring neighborhood problems to the Block Association. "We would like to try to help," he said.

Board Members Elected at Annual Meeting

The following members, who were elected by acclamation to the Block Association's 2007-2008 Board of Directors, include Terence Hanrahan who last served many years ago.

Hedy Campbell	240 W. 102 St.
Alan Cary	884 WEA
Camille Colon	305 RSD
Jock Davenport	300 RSD
Cynthia Doty	305 RSD
Maura Gouck	300 RSD
Terence Hanrahan	865 WEA
John Hewitt	872 WEA
Marlene Lee	250 W. 103 St.
Alan Leidner	299 RSD
Ginger Lief	310 RSD
David L. Reich	299 RSD

Monster Turnout For Halloween Tradition

Continued from Page 1

gant make-up, again kept the cupcakes and cider flowing. Saxton Freymann, known for the delightful book *Play With Your Food*, carved an amazing pumpkin for our refreshments table.

On W. 102nd St., the Zakaria/Throckmorton, Baron, Doyle/Lauren, Hilary, Plutzik/Goldwasser and Albert families all decorated their homes to delight the children as they made their way along the parade route. Also pitching in were Susan Dessel and board members Ginger Lief, Cynthia Doty, Marlene Lee and David Reich. Donating all manner of food and drink were Sheila Curry Oakes, Lyssa Keusch, Moira Danehy, Anthony DeCurtis, the Davidge/Lott family, the Ruden/Leidner family, Michael and Sharon Leibowitz, the Fishman family, the Rappaport/Hall family, the W. 104th St. Block Association, and the Becker/Cope family. To those who brought your contributions anonymously, we thank you as well.

Please let us know your ideas for an even better event next year.

Yarntopia



- Beautiful Yarns In Hundreds Of Colors, Textures & Fibers
- Classes In Knitting & Crochet For All Levels
- Boutique Of Unique Hand Knit & Crocheted Designs

ALL IN ONE FABULOUS SPACE

Gift Certificates are Available

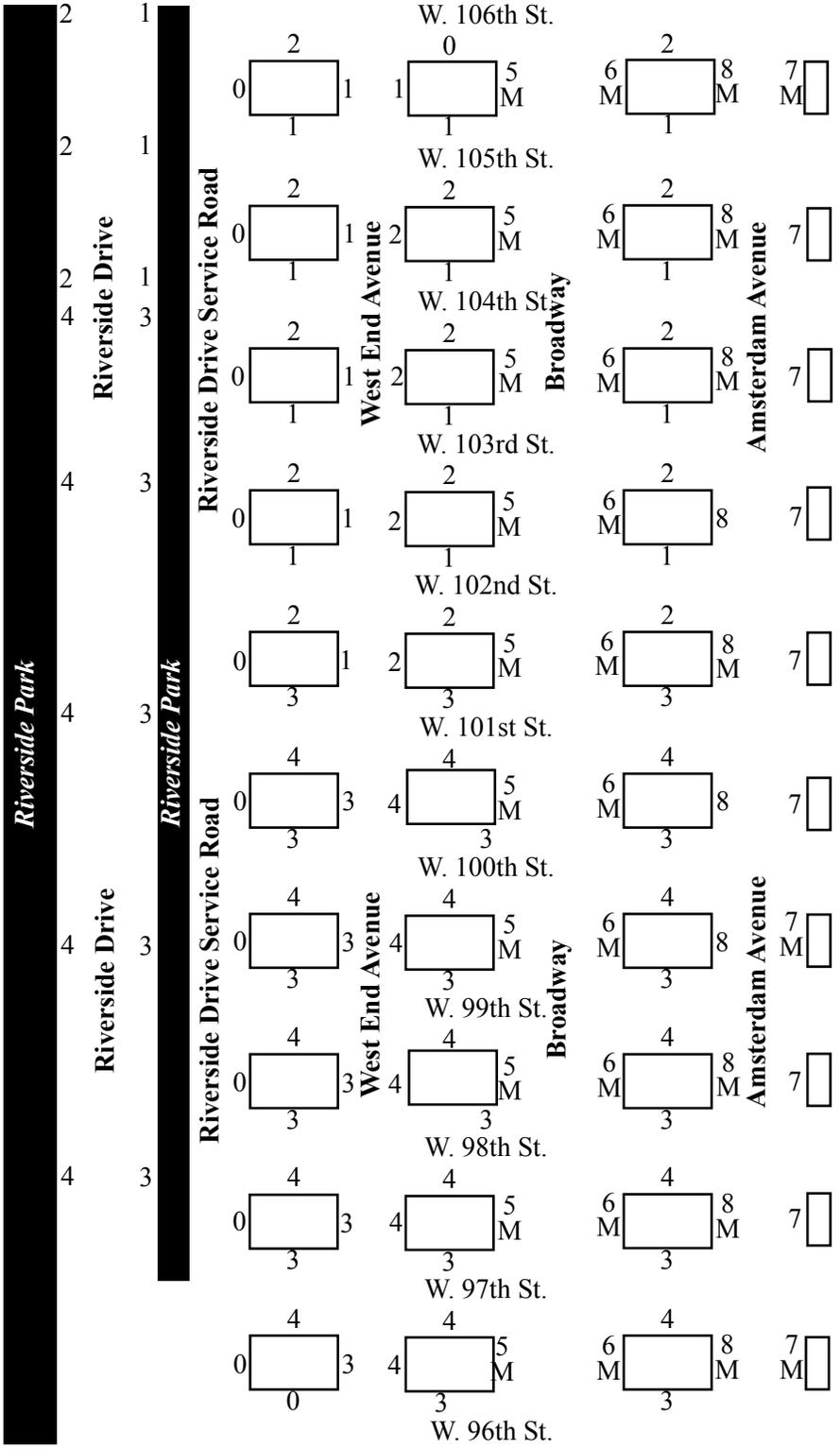
974 Amsterdam Ave (sw corner 108th)
(212) 316 - YARN (9276)

HOURS: We/Fr/Sa/Su 12-7 Tu/Th 12-9 Monday Closed



2008 Neighborhood Parking Map

WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION



LEGEND "No Parking" Days and Times

	Meters in Effect (Except Sunday)
0 - No parking any time	--
1 - M, Th 9:30 am - 11:00 am	--
2 - Tu, F 9:30 am - 11:00 am	--
3 - M, Th 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	--
4 - Tu, F 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	--
5 - M-Sat 8:00 am - 8:30 am	8:30 am - 10 pm
6 - M-Sat 7:30 am - 8:00 am	8:00 am - 10 pm
7 - M, W, F 8:30 am - 9:00 am	9:00 am - 7 pm
8 - Tu, Th, Sat 8:30 am - 9:00 am	9:00 am - 7 pm
M - Metered parking	

2008 Alternate Side Parking Suspensions

- Jan. 1, Tue: New Year's Day
- Jan. 21, Mon: Martin Luther King's Birthday
- Feb. 6, Wed: Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 7, Thu: Asian Lunar New Year
- Feb. 12, Tue: Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 18, Mon: Washington's Birthday/Pres. Day
- Mar. 20, Thu: Holy Thursday
- Mar. 21, Fri: Good Friday
- Mar. 21, Fri: Purim
- Apr. 20-21, Sun-Mon: Passover, 1st, 2nd Days
- Apr. 24, Thu: Holy Thursday (Orthodox)
- Apr. 25, Fri: Good Friday (Orthodox)
- Apr. 26-27, Sat-Sun: Passover, 7th, 8th Days
- May 1, Thu: Solemnity of the Ascension
- May 26, Mon: Memorial Day
- June 9-10, Mon-Tue: Shavuot
- July 4, Fri: Independence Day
- Aug. 15, Fri: Feast of the Assumption
- Sep. 1, Mon: Labor Day
- Sep. 30-Oct 1, Tue-Wed: Rosh Hashanah
- Oct. 1-3, Wed-Fri: Idul-Fitr
- Oct. 9, Thu: Yom Kippur
- Oct. 13, Mon: Columbus Day
- Oct. 14-15, Tue-Wed: Succoth (2 days)
- Oct. 21, Tue: Shemini Atzereth
- Oct. 22, Wed: Simchas Torah
- Oct. 28, Tue: Diwali
- Nov. 1, Sat: All Saints' Day
- Nov. 4, Tue: Election Day
- Nov. 11, Tue: Veterans' Day
- Nov. 27, Thu: Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 8, Mon: Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 8-10, Mon-Wed: Idul-Adha, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Day
- Dec. 25, Thu: Christmas Day

Sponsored By



LIVE MARIACHI BAND EVERY DAY



BEST MARGARITAS
OUTSIDE OF MEXICO



M. Kawira Architect

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MEXICAN RESTAURANTS IN THE U.S.A.

NEW YORK

Mamá's Boys
Juan Rojas Campos and his brother Bernabe grow 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 Mamá Mexico, a festive cantina with a roster of frozen margaritas, a festive of Mexican village life, and a strolling mariachi singer. The extensive menu ranges from the traditional (nachos, burritos) to the less familiar (grilled marinated rack of lamb and red-spagher soup). (2672 Broadway, near 102nd Street.) Excerpt from New York magazine dated September 15, 1997.

el diario LA PRENSA
El más auténtico sabor pobliano

DAILY NEWS NEW YORK
"Incredible Array of Yummy Dishes"
MANHATTAN Spirit
Margarita Heaven

ZAGAT SURVEY 2005
"Strong, full margaritas" and huge sangrias fuel the "fiesta" feel of this winning Upper West Side Mexican that also showcases an "over-the-top" mariachi band on Fridays. Compadres commend the "fab staff" and only "wish the place weren't so popular."

The New York Times
Friendly and Likable... Spicing is Tame but Drinks are Potent

Time Out
Received The "Tony Award" of Restaurants
BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT IN NYC 7 YEARS IN A ROW

Cheap Eats
The Mama of All Fiestas
Mariachis - Three Stars and More



MAMA MEXICO

RESTAURANT BAR

COMIDAS Y BEBIDAS CON AMOR



JUAN ROJAS CAMPOS OWNER
TIRSO HERRERA CHEF
BERNABE ROJAS CAMPOS CHEF

MAMÁ MEXICO MIDTOWN
214 East 49th St., NY, NY 10017 • 212-935-1316

MAMÁ MEXICO UPTOWN
2672 Broadway, NY, NY 10025 • 212-864-2323

MAMÁ MEXICO NEW JERSEY
464 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ • 201-871-0555

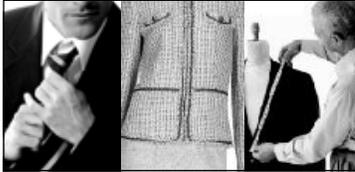
www.mamamexico.com



We consider things that are not even visible

As a professional dry-cleaner, we never cease to improve every aspect of our business and strive to be at the forefront in the field of dry cleaning. We introduced "Organic Dry-Cleaning Service" for the first time in town. And now, we are proud to announce that we are dry cleaning with a new cleaning solution.

- No More Chemical Odor Your garment will never have that typical odor often associated with dry cleaning solvent.
- Insect Repellent Keeps moths and their larva away from clothes that have been cleaned by our service.
- Protect Colors and Clothes Makes white and light colored garments much brighter and feel softer.
- Reduce Static Electricity



Organic Dry-Cleaning

- *Professional Shirt Laundry
- *Expert Alteration- "40 years of experience"
- *Free Pick-up & Delivery Service

New Cleaning Solution

Kay French Cleaners

2675 Broadway at 102nd St., New York, NY 10025 (next to Supercuts)
 Tel. 212-666-7234 Fax. 212-662-7708
 Business hours: Mon. - Fri. 7:00 am - 7:00 pm, Sat. 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Updates>>>News Updates>>>News Updates>>>News

Street Trees

As promised, the NYC Parks and Recreation Department has arranged for the planting of a new tree in the previously empty pit in front of 865 West End Ave. but we did not get a *zelkova serrata* (Japanese hornbeam). Instead, we have a ginkgo, the same as three of the other four trees on the block. The fourth is a Callery pear. On W. 103rd St., the dead tree that was in front of 311 (also a ginkgo) has been removed. Though that tree pit was not on the list for a replacement tree this fall, it should receive one during next spring's planting season.

96th St. Subway Renovation

The multi-year project is finally under construction. Narrowing of the Broadway sidewalks from W. 96th to W. 97th Sts. has been completed including rerouting of some underground utilities. Fourteen trees have been cut down but many more will be planted when the widened mall becomes a small park around the new entrance house. Work will be suspended from Thanksgiving to New Year's due to a DOT embargo on street construction during the heavy holiday traffic. When work resumes, the sidewalk cutbacks from W. 94th to W. 96th Sts. will be completed.

Drat! More Rats!

Despite efforts of the NYC Department of Health inspectors and many property owners in the neighborhood, rat sightings continue to be reported. While the poisoned bait stations (typically black plastic boxes the size of a large phone book) are seen in alleyways and beside stoops, there are still enough open trash cans and dropped food to support the rodent population. Please continue to report any sightings of rats or unsanitary conditions to 311 as promptly as possible and pass on the report number to the Block Association (see box on page 2). We will follow up.



BLOCK ASSOCIATION DISCOUNT!
\$300 APPLICATION FEE WAIVED
 (ON ALL PURCHASES AND REFINANCES)

Get the *lowest possible* mortgage rate.
SANDY RUSTIN FLEISCHER
 LOAN OFFICER

Tel: 917-687-8116
 Email: sandyrf@acpartners.com

Block Association Member

Licensed mortgage banker, NY State Banking Dept.

James Perez
 Senior Vice President/Associate Broker

Brown Harris Stevens Residential Sales, LLC
 1926 Broadway, New York, NY 10023
www.brownharrisstevens.com

Tel 212.588.5656 Cell 917.902.7193 Fax 212.418.9763
 Email jperez@bhsusa.com

Local Shop Owner Runs Marathons For Health At Age When Others Seek the Easy Chair

You might think that Nam Lee, the owner of Kay French Cleaners on Broadway at W. 102nd St., would have enough to do keeping his customers happy and his business running. You might think that, as he closes in on 68, he would be thinking about an easy retirement.

A look at his display of medals, accumulated over the past four years, tells a different story. Mr. Lee is a marathoner who completed the 26.2 mile races at Albany, New York City, and Philadelphia in the last few weeks. Why would a man in his early 60's take up such a physically demanding sport? "I had high sugar, high cholesterol and high blood pressure," he explained. "Now I don't take any medicine and everything is better."

Though he hadn't been a runner before, Mr. Lee had been an avid hiker for more than 40 years. Now, he is out of his house in New Jersey by 5 am most every day to train along a nine-mile stretch of the Palisades overlooking the Hudson. Sometimes Marie, his wife of 42 years, comes along running and walking part of the way. She's very proud of her husband's accomplishments, which include two firsts in his age class. His enthusiasm for the sport is infectious. "He's got all the neighbors, lawyers, and doctors out running," she said with a big smile.

Marathons, for Mr. Lee, are for health and enjoyment, not struggle. When asked which course he liked best, Philadelphia was his answer. "Not too many hills," he said, with a grin.

Shelters Seek Holiday Toys, Books, Clothing

For the seventh consecutive year, the W. 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association will join with the Department of Justice's New York office in their holiday toy and gift party for the victims of domestic violence who live at the Henry Street Settlement shelter.

Over the years, hundreds of toys, books and small gifts, both new and gently used, have been donated, collected, wrapped, and delivered by Block Association members and staff at DOJ. A wrapping party is held at DOJ with delivery of the gifts by Santa and Mrs. Claus at the shelter.

Gifts are also collected for men at the Doe Fund's Ready, Willing and Able shelter. They are the folks you see in blue coveralls keeping Broadway clean.

To donate to the Henry Street Settlement or the Doe Fund shelter, please leave your gift with the doorman at 305 Riverside Dr. (Attention: Camille) or call (212) 620-8970.

Block Association Needs Volunteers To Help With Outreach

Even with our quarterly Newsletter, Eposters on the street, and an email list that reaches 130 households, it is still difficult for the Block Association to connect with the almost 2000 households in our district on a timely basis. Our board members cover a few buildings but most are not represented.

You can help. A Block Association building representative would post the occasional notice in a public place (mailroom, lobby) and be the liaison to the building's board or tenant association. In the other direction, the representative would be the neighbor to contact for residents of the building who have questions or concerns for the Block Association. This would be a position for someone who does not have a lot of spare time but does want to connect with their neighborhood. To volunteer, call (212) 866-5769 or email info@w102-103blockassn.org.

Neighbors Launch "Green Team" Projects

Our Block Association's Green Team got started on October 30 with a meeting in the apartment of Amy Cherry and Avery Hudson at 300 Riverside Drive. A total of six members of our Block Association and the W. 104th Street Block Association participated. Several others have expressed interest in future meetings. The attendees spoke about those "green" actions they were most interested in taking and a number of issues were identified for follow-up:

Building boilers and heating systems: We learned that 300 Riverside Dr. had recently installed a new energy-efficient boiler. Jon Reiner, 300 RSD Co-op Board member and chair of the building's Green Team, will start documenting building energy conservation options.

Green Roofs: Mark Seaman and Avery Hudson will be researching options for green roofs to keep buildings cooler in the summer.

Green Stores: Jon Reiner and Joe Rappaport will look at issues including substituting reusable shopping bags for plastic bags, better electronics recycling, and deposit bottle recycling.

Alternative Energy Options: Amy Cherry will research green energy supply sources available to Con Ed customers to identify the best options and get details about cost.

Low Energy Bulbs: Alan Leidner will look into bulb alternatives, identify best options, and try to develop a bulk purchase strategy that involves local merchants.

Also discussed were establishing liaisons with other environmental groups in the city, enlisting neighborhood teenagers to help with initiatives, and establishing Green Team liaisons in other Block Association buildings. To join the team or for more information, contact Alan Leidner at (212) 678-7085 or leidnera@nyc.rr.com.

On Broadway

Openings and Closings: ♦♦The optometrist **Cohen's Fashion Optical** has moved next door from the northwest corner of Broadway and W. 96th St. to a larger space and its former location is now a **T-Mobile** wireless store. ♦♦Ever since **Sterling Optical** closed on the west side of Broadway between W. 100th and W. 101st Sts., the **Aerosoles** shoe store next door had been living on borrowed time. At the end of October, time ran out and the shoe store closed. According to Richard Du, president of Dumann Realty, which is marketing the two spaces, "rent is going up" and "the shoe market margin is not much." The owner of the properties is asking about \$35,000 per month rent for each one, he said. ♦♦The former **Ana's** restaurant at 2686 Broadway on the east side between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts. will soon become a Thai restaurant. It seems that Thai is the new Chinese with at least four old or recent restaurants in an eight-block radius of this new one offering that cuisine. A representative of Hank Freid's Impulsive Group, which owns the building and the **Marakesh Hotel** on the upper floors, said that the new restaurant will open in December or January. ♦♦Residents of **Ariel East**, on Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts., began moving in at the beginning of October.

Going Down, Going Up: ♦♦The "gorgeous" facade of "hand-set terra cotta panels from Europe" promised for **Ariel West** on Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts. has been installed. If you were hoping that a building offering multi-million dollar condos might at least look the part, you are probably disappointed by the bland, flat appearance they present. The north and south sides of the building's tower are similarly sheathed in a beige paneling that is best described as dull. On the commercial side, there are still no

retail tenants for the ground floor space. The windows are covered with ads inviting tenants to "locate yourself at the center of the fastest expanding portion of the affluent Upper West Side." This would come at a square-foot cost even higher than that asked for the former **Aerosoles** space, reflecting the new condition and prestige location. ♦♦The same lack of tenants is true of the former **Metro Theater**. The leasing agent has talked with a theater group, a dance group, a ping-pong organization, and a major furniture retailer but no agreements have been reached. ♦♦Almost a year after a car backed into the carved brownstone stoop at **254 W. 102nd St.**, destroying some of the landmarked beauty, a renovation project is underway. Much of the stoop is being rebuilt with matching brownstone from New Jersey under the supervision of Jan Hird Pokorny Associates, an architectural firm that specializes in preservation work. Prof. Pokorny, 92, is a commissioner with the NYC Landmark Preservation Commission.

Gala Groundbreaking for Riverside Park Riverwalk

By Cynthia Doty

On October 17th, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe attended the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Riverwalk in Riverside Park. This will be the long-awaited bicycle and pedestrian path extending from W. 83rd St. to W. 91st St. on a pile-supported platform above the edge of the Hudson River.

When the \$13.3 million project is finished in 2009, there will be over 70 blocks of continuous pathway by the river. Landscaping will add 31 trees and 357 shrubs along the new section.

Also attending the ceremony were all our local elected officials, the design team, many Parks Department staff, many classes of school children, Riverside Park Fund members, and lots of neighbors. The fireboat sprayed water in various displays and our very own Alan Cary performed with his band, playing "Down by the Riverside" and other topical tunes. We all look forward to the official opening ceremony.

Creative Carpentry

Custom cabinets
Bookcases - Shelving
Radiator covers

Renovations and repairs
Kitchens - Bathrooms
Doors - Closets

30 years experience

212-962-1378

Marc Sorkin
Block Association Member

cucina **italian**
regionale

regional

2607 **broadway**
new york, ny 10025
tel. 212.666.1915
www.regionalnyc.com

Thank You, Members!

To all of our contributors, heartfelt thanks. Your donations keep the Block Association going and the guard on the street. Names of those who are "paid up" through the *previous* quarter (approximately) appear below; please let us know of errors. We ask that you please fill out the envelope stub

**New and continuing donors:
please use the enclosed envelope
to send your contribution to:
W. 102-103 Streets Block Assn.
P. O. Box 1940
New York, NY 10025**

completely (including your apartment number) and legibly when making your contribution (the stubs are the basis of our record-keeping) and indicate if you prefer anonymity.

235 W. 102 St.: Awner, Cox, Einhorn/Futterman, Fair/Guide, Jonas, Kenyon, Lyman, Meese, Mitchell, Nelson-Schwartz, O'Hanlon, Scheel/Drillinger, Stevenson, Timperley **240 W. 102 St.:** Eisenstadt, Field, Fishman, Kalish, Nitz, Worman/Chun **244 W. 102 St.:** Sugarman **247 W. 102 St.:** Dunn **251 W. 102 St.:** Mirsky/Bommarito **252 W. 102 St.:** Carroll/Musk **254 W. 102 St.:** Chick **307 W. 102 St.:** Zakaria/Throckmorton **308 W. 102 St.:** Hilary **309 W. 102 St.:** Baron **310 W. 102 St.:** Albert **311 W. 102 St.:** Doyle/Lauren **312 W. 102 St.:** Plutzik/Goldwasser **313 W. 102 St.:** Betts **315 W. 102 St.:** Bassios, Hansen, Knox, Weil **318 W. 102 St.:** Erselcuk **320 W. 102 St.:** Brail **250 W. 103 St.:** Crowley, Falk, Hamberg/Hirabayashi, Katzer, Lee/Payez, O'Brien/Boyle, Rahmani, Soskin, Sue/Lin **254 W. 103 St.:** Feldman/Hasenpusch **303 W. 103 St.:** Frishauf/Rice **305 W. 103 St.:** Bertin **307 W. 103 St.:** Tredanari **312 W. 103 St.:** Aaronson **315 W. 103 St.:** Danna **316 W. 103 St.:** Iler/Krishna, Kleidon/Ahmed, Oakes **855 West End Ave.:** Ausubel, Coffman, Huey, Solowiejczyk/Porjesz **862 West End Ave.:** Hewitt **865 West End Ave.:** Axelrod, Beels, Coulter, Curirin/Lepore, Cushman/Sorkin, Davidge/Lott, Eisenstein, Gurman, Hanrahan, Lowenthal, Nye, Perchanok/Krasner, Von Moltke, Zakrzewski **870 West End Ave.:** Wuorinen

875 West End Ave.: Babush, Baney/Bentley, Barbor, Batterman, Borinstein/Vartanian, Canin, Canin/Sauer, Carll, DeCurtis/MacDowell, Eisen/Dworkin, Felton, Fricke/Klimley, Fuerstein, Garbers/Belth, Gillman, Gordon, Grosf/Fisch, Hausman, Humphreys, Keane, Lasher, Leiman, Leon, Levin, Levine, Malatzky, Manley, March/Laferrère, McDermott, Rando-Chanon, Reilly, Rogers, Smith/Chibnik, Sondik/Greene-Sondik, Stein, Straw/Gubitosa, Ward, Williamson, Yahr **878 West End Ave.:** Foreman, Gross/Ochshorn, Lansdale, Stearns **884 West End Ave.:** Arnold, Aronow/Adler, Booth/Newman, Davis, Dispenza, Finch/Fitzgibbon, Pines, Waldman, Yin **885 West End Ave.:** Bernstein/Bowen, Browning/Laffey, Cross, Cryer, Friedman, Goldberg, Gruber, Sanders, Sherman/Chafetz, Spring/Miller, Tolkow/Woodbury, Tympanick/Gilman, Weiss **299 Riverside Dr.:** Cunningham, Dane/Rabinowitz, del Alamo, Fell, Field/Seidel, Flateman/Goldstein, Fleischer, Goldstein, Holtz/Horowitz, Kaplan, Kastanis, Kaufman, Leidner/Ruden, Reich/Dessel, Shear, Soltz, Tedoff, Wagner/Cecil, Wang/Sedlis, Wollos/Best, Wong **300 Riverside Dr.:** Buckland, Clarke, Cummins, DiCostanzo, Edelman/Gold, Eisler, Flint/McLeod, Forbes/De Prenger, Fox, Frank, Greenwald/Struhl, Hudson/Cherry, Krassner, Lerse, Livingstone, Meer, Mills, Rack, Rapp/Zyberman, Rasmussen, Reich/Greenberg, Sato, Schiff, Seget/LaBasse, Serra, Simon, Sinaiko, Smith/Silverman, van Schaardenburg, Vinicor, Weissberg **305 Riverside Dr.:** Avidon, Colon, Hoffman, Jacoby, Juviler/Stephens, Kaiden, Liebowitz, McGinn, Meyer/Biestock, Sandlow **310 Riverside Dr.:** Acero/Dyer, Barter, Coddington, Cooper, Godshall, Hagiwara, Huber, Hugus, Mahoney, McKinney/Chin, Piper, Sandberg, Woodward

Landlords/Co-ops: 235 W. 102 St., 240 W. 102 St., 247 W. 102 St., 248 W. 102 St., 249 W. 102 St., 250 W. 102 St., 252 W. 102 St., 302 W. 102 St., 315 W. 102 St., 316 W. 102 St., 250 W. 103 St., 308 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 Dr., 300 Riverside Dr., 310 Riverside Dr.

Commercial: Bellov, Busters, Fleischer,

Kay French Cleaners, Mamá Mexico, Perez, Regency TV Productions, Regional Restaurant, Sorkin, Stahl, Wohlfarth & Associates, Yartopia

Hard-Fought Zoning Plan Becomes Law

By Cynthia Doty

On Tuesday, September 25th, the NYC Council unanimously passed amendments to the zoning map for the area from W. 97th St. to W. 110th St., Riverside Dr. to Central Park West. This was the plan that so many of us advocated for over the past 2 ½ years.

The new law creates separate zoning areas for the side streets and avenues, preventing the selling of air rights across blocks. It also limits building heights to 14 stories on Broadway, to 10-11 stories on the other avenues, and to 7-8 stories on the side streets. Along with the earlier creation of the Manhattan Avenue Historic District, this new plan helps preserve the character and diversity of our neighborhood while allowing for new responsible development. (Park West Village and Douglass Houses were not rezoned as they were already zoned at a lower density. The construction currently underway there is possible because of all the open space, which allows for tall new buildings).

At the last minute, the Jewish Home and Hospital on W. 106th St. asked for an exemption so they could sell part of their property to fund a new facility. After many intense negotiations, the exemption was granted; however, JHH made many concessions and agreements guaranteeing the new facility would be only 15 stories, and any building on the site they sell could be at most 12 stories. They also agreed not to build out to W. 105th St., leaving that block protected.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to enact this historic new zoning. This was good responsible urban planning at its best. And it was from the bottom up, with neighbors coming together to pressure the government to take action.