

WEST 104th STREET

BLOCK ASSOCIATION

March 21, 2003

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Nancy Lian

Layout and Design: John Johnston

Community forum with precinct leadership

About 50 neighborhood residents gathered recently in the chilly lobby of 340 Riverside Dr. to speak directly to the leaders of the 24th Precinct. Inspector James ("Jimmy") Dean and Det. Heidi Higgins, offered the following solutions to their concerns. (A third officer, Lt. Robert Coffaro, head of special operations, was silent throughout the meeting.)

Inspector Dean, commander of the 24th precinct for nearly four months, had been in charge of the precinct's illegal drug enforcement some years ago. He said that the decrease in police assigned to the precinct is due to staff cutbacks and to the redeployment of officers to various initiatives, including anti-terrorism. He expressed concern about a possible increase in crime at a time when police ranks are at their lowest numbers in years.

Dean also said Commissioner Kelly and Mayor Bloomberg continue to emphasize quality of life issues, reasoning that if minor offenses are prosecuted, major crimes can be prevented (the "broken window" theory). However, the precinct's web site makes no reference to quality of life issues: no list of what they constitute nor a phone number for reporting violations of them. The homepage of the NYPD, however, has the phone number and other "Help Resources" numbers, including terrorism and sex crimes.

The forum was the first in a series sponsored by Friends of Straus Park; Leon Auerbach is the person responsible for their creation. Future forums, which are open to the community, will feature local leaders of parks, sanitation, and fire. The upcoming events page on the block association's web site (www.bloomingdale.org) will include the date, time, and location. Flyers around the neighborhood will also provide this information.

Whom to Call

Children mugging other children: Call the precinct immediately; be prepared to provide a description of the muggers. Karen Newton is the precinct's youth officer. Inspector Dean said he was aware (as are members of the block association whose children have been mugged) that muggings rise as school is letting out for the year and as school begins again in the fall.

Skateboarders in Straus Park: Call the precinct; or, if you feel comfortable doing it, ask the youths not to skateboard in the park.

Private buses idling and blocking traffic late at night and early in the morning on 107th St. near a social service facility: Det. Higgins will work with the bus company and the facility to find a resolution to the problem.

MTA buses idling at 106th/Broadway/West End, creating what amounts to a bus depot: Inspector Dean felt this was an issue for the MTA.

Cars blocked by double-parked cars: While double-parking is illegal, it's customary for cars to double park during alternate side parking hours. As a courtesy, a double-parked car should display the owner's phone number on the dashboard.

Homeless people in 103rd St. subway station: Call Det. Higgins. Homeless people are being kept out of the Amtrak tunnels (which run under Riverside Park) as part of the city's anti-terrorism work. As a result, they are showing up in public places such as the subway.

Precinct	(212) 678-1811
Youth Officer	(212) 678-1842
Det. Higgins	(212) 678-1803
NYPD Quality of Life	(888) 677-5433

How to turn someone else's trash into your treasure

Ira Gershenhorn of 320 Riverside Dr. has discovered a way for you to make some money and clean up the neighborhood at the same time – all without lifting a broom. The Department of Sanitation has two programs through which the public can collect monetary awards for reporting observations of illegal dumping.

Under the first - The Illegal Dumping Award Program - you must be willing to sign an affidavit and appear at the Environmental Control Board (ECB) hearing.

Under the second - The Illegal Dumping Tip Program - information about your identity remains confidential. There is illegal dumping in our neighborhood of the type covered by the program. A frequent dumping site is the garden directly west of 320 Riverside Dr. Details – including the amount of the awards – are on the DOS' web site: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dos/html/ildpgpgm.html>.

If you don't have Internet access, Teresa Elwert is happy to print the relevant information for you: 212 866 4260.

Snow removed by building personnel

The staffs of the four largest buildings on our block (895 and 905 West End and 315 and 320 Riverside) did a great job keeping the sidewalks and curb cuts free of snow after two recent snowstorms, one of which dumped more than a foot of snow in the City. Each of those buildings has a snow blower, which turns a back-breaking and time-consuming chore into a moderate exercise done a few times a day.

The supers of 315 Riverside and 895 West End respectively also lent support to other buildings by using their snow blowers in front of buildings that are near their own. Willie Arenas (super at 309 W 104) and many brownstone owners shoveled the snow in front of their buildings. Thank you, everyone, who helped make the sidewalks safe for us all.

Restoration, but No New Art Work at 103rd Station

By Alex Grannis

The restoration of the 103rd Street Subway began in mid-February after much controversy. According to the MTA, the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission approved the renovation of the 103rd, the 110th and the 116th IRT Stations. But Community Board 7 approved only the restoration of the 103rd and 110th stations and Community Board 9 approved only the restoration at 116th Street. They voted down the Arts for Transit proposal, which involved tile work depicting bronze trains running along tracks that symbolized a time line of the city. Although the Arts in Transit art work would not affect the preservation of the original glazed tiles, the terracotta plaques and the wainscot bricks, several speakers at the community board meeting spoke against any additions that were not in the original design. Speakers protested that putting an additional layer of decoration on the walls would ruin their integrity because the walls were designed as complete works of art on their own.

Renovation will also include new lighting and new public address systems, two new exit wheels to replace the one at the 104th Street exit and two new exit wheels on the upstairs mezzanine.

Those interested in learning more about the restoration or expressing their concerns should contact NYC Transit President Lawrence Reuter and Arts for Transit Director Sandra Bloodworth.

West 104th Street Block Association Board

President	Teresa Elwert
VP/Secretary	Nancy Lian
Treasurer	Sid Herzfeld
Members	Ned Barnard Barbara Bryan Miriam Duhan Sheila Garden Alex Grannis John Johnston Estelle Kattelson Hanna Rubin Marsha Tantleff

Calendar of Selected Events

- 3/21** **Joni Mitchell - Wall to Wall Marathon**, Symphony Space, 11 am to 11 pm. Program features everything from her most famous songs to less well-known music. Call 212.864.5400 for more information.
- 3/22** **Sing-Along**, special program of songs for children of all ages. Morningside Heights Public Library at 2900 Broadway at 113th St. 2 pm. For more information call 212.864.2530.
- 3/25** **The Living Is Easy**, by Dorothy West, to be discussed by Books & Poetry Group. Bloomingdale Public Library, 150 W. 100 St., 6 pm. For more information call 212.222.8030.
- 3/26** **Tucked All Safe in Bed**, stories for ages 4 to 8, told by Ron Sopyla, sponsored by LEAP. Morningside Heights Public Library at 2900 Broadway at 113th St. 4 pm. For more information call 212.864.2530.
- 3/29** **International Shorts Showdown**, a program of animated shorts from international film festivals around the globe. Symphony Space, 2 pm. Tickets \$10. Call 212.864.5400 for more information.
- 3/30** **EMPRESS OF CHINA**, Pan Asian Repertory Theater, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, 263 W. 86 St., 2:30 pm. Sponsored by the 104th St. Block Assn. and the 102nd and 103rd St. Block Assn. Call Rosalyn Cherry now at 212.663.6409 to reserve your specially priced \$25 tickets.
- 3/31** **Manhattan School of Music Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra**, Bobby Sanabria, conductor. John C. Borden Auditorium, Broadway at 122nd St. 8 pm. Free Concert, no tickets required.
- 4/3** **The Complete Piano Music of Carl Ruggles and unknown works of Charles Ives**, Donald Berman and Christopher Oldfather, piano, Daniel Stepner, violin. Columbia Miller Theater, 8 pm. Tickets \$20 at the Box Office. Call 212.854.7799 for more information.
- 4/4** **HAYDN: Symphony No. 95 in C minor, TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74, "Pathétique"** by the Manhattan School of Music Symphony, Jerzy Semkow, conductor. 8 PM
John C. Borden Auditorium. FREE CONCERT. No tickets required
- 4/6** **Music by Zemlinsky, Korngold, Webern** played by Christina Prince, violin, and Alexander Oldfather, piano. Nicholas Roerich Museum at 319 W 107 St. 5 pm. Free. Call 212.864.7752 for more information.
- 4/10** **Horns A-Plenty**, with International Jazz Vocal Sensation Lyambiko. Pace Downtown Theater, 3 Spruce St. between Park Row and Gold St. 8 pm. Part of Highlights of Jazz Series. Tickets \$25 to be ordered by sending check to Highlights in Jazz, 7 Peter Cooper Road, New York, NY 10010. Enclose SASE.
- 4/10-12** **Barnard Dance**. Spring showcase featuring works by the great choreographers of our time. Columbia Miller Theater, 8 pm each day. Call 212.854.7799 for ticket information.
- 4/11** **Children's Opera**, Rebecca Charnow, coordinator. Manhattan School of Music, Greenfield Hall, 7:30 pm. Free Concert, no tickets required.
- 4/12** **Brunch in Straus Park** with music and light food. Rain date April 13). Call Margaret Kavanau at 212.866.9038 for more information.
- 4/12** **Tom Chapin/Just Kidding**, Folk-singer for children. 11 am and 2 pm. Symphony Space. Tickets \$14 and \$10. Call 212.864.5400 for more information.
- 4/12** **New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra** plays Tchaikovsky *Piano Concerto #1* and Rachmaninov *Symphony #2*. Symphony Space, Broadway at 95th St. 8 pm. Tickets \$12, St / Sr \$6. Call 212.864.5400 for more information
- 4/23** **An Evening with Saxophones**, Paul Cohen, coordinator. Manhattan School of Music, Greenfield Hall, 7:30 pm. Free Concert, no tickets required.
- 4/23** **Beatrice et Benedict** by Hector Berlioz, Manhattan School of Music Opera Theater, John C. Borden Auditorium. 8 pm. Tickets \$20, \$15; half price for students and seniors. For information call 212.749.2802, x4428. Program repeats 4/25 at 8 pm and 4/27 at 2:30 pm
- 4/27** **Meet the Birds**, Riverside Park, 116th to 120th St. 1 to 4 pm. Bring the family to join Riverside Park Fund's School & Family Programs Coordinator and the New York Audubon Society for live raptor demonstrations, guided bird walks and other bird-related activities and art projects. To help the planning, call 212.870.3070 to let them know you're coming.
- 4/29** **Columbia Bach Society**, Karl Selden, music director, offers music by Bach and Villa-Lobos. Columbia Miller Theater, 8 pm. Free. Call 212.854.7799 for more information.
- 4/30** **Master Class with Glenn Dicterow**, violinist, Manhattan School of Music, Greenfield Hall, 4 pm. Free Event, no tickets required.
- 5/2** **Orchestral Reading**, Kurt Masur, conductor. Manhattan School of Music Symphony, John C. Borden Auditorium, 9:30 am. Free Event, no tickets required.
- 5/2-3** **Africa Jazz**, The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and Yacub Addy & Odadaa! The concert explores the relationship between the African music tradition and jazz. Columbia Miller Theater, 8 pm each day. Call 212.854.7799 for ticket information.
- 5/4** **Marigolds for Mom**. Join the Riverside Park Fund School & Family Programs Coordinator for this kid-friendly event. Decorate planting pots and plant them with marigold seeds which will germinate in time for Mother's Day. Playground at Riverside and 91st St. 1 to 3 pm. No charge for this event, but please call 212.870.3070 to sign up.
- 5/4** **Music by Dvorak and Mozart**, played by the Angelicus Ensemble, Sylvia D'Avanzo and Nina Evtuhov, violins, Katherine Sinsabaugh, Viola, Amy Ralske, cello, and Robyn Freund-Epstein, piano. Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 W 107 St. 5 pm. Free. Call 212.864.7752 for information.
- 5/8** **Benefit Concert for Straus Park**. Indoor evening event, music and food. Call Margaret Kavanau at 212.866.9038 for more information.
- 5/15** **I love a Piano**, McCoy Tyner, Dena DeRose Trio. . Pace Downtown Theater, 3 Spruce St. between Park Row and Gold St. 8 pm. Part of Highlights of Jazz Series. Tickets \$25 to be ordered by sending check to Highlights in Jazz, 7 Peter Cooper Road, New York NY 10010. Enclose SSAE.
- 5/16** **Goldberg's Variations: The Andy Biskin Sextet**, World Premiere Biskin brings the inventions of Rube Goldberg to life using video imagery and original live music. Symphony Space, 8:30 pm. Call 212.864.5400 for ticket information.
- 9/20** **YARD SALE, West 104th St. Block Association**. 10 – 5. Save the date!

Safety Tips for Traveling Women

- Avoid bright colors and flashy jewelry to be inconspicuous.
- Keep your luggage in sight at airports and train stations.
- Carry a scarf with you to tie your camera bag or computer to the luggage cart for safety.
- Wear your shoulder bag across your body with the opening toward your body.
- Carry most of your valuables under your clothes, so you won't suffer if your handbag is stolen.
- Double lock your hotel door and keep your valuables with you even in the bathroom if you do not use the hotel safe.
- Use moderation in alcohol consumption to keep your mind alert at all times.
- Never count your money in public.
- Be wary of accepting food or drink from strangers.
- Fool potential thieves by carrying your camera in a shopping bag from the local grocer in the city or town you are visiting - anywhere in the world.

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Safety Tips for New Yorkers

- If you are victimized, call 911 immediately
- Watch out for someone who pushes you or stumbles entering or leaving a bus.
- Watch out for someone pushing or bumping you from behind on a subway.
- Watch out for someone who stumbles or drops something on an escalator.
- Be careful of someone who asks for directions on the street, someone who tells you there's ketchup or mustard on your clothing, someone who stops you right after leaving an ATM machine.

Empress of China Presentation March 30

Two years ago the W. 104th Street Block Association joined with neighbors on W. 102nd & 103rd Streets to organize a very successful theater party. Now we are doing it again on Sunday, March 30 at 3pm. Once more our destination is a Pan Asian Repertory Theatre production: "Empress of China."

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, China was ruled by the Ch'ing Dynasty. The emperor was first one child, Tung Chih, and then another, Kuang Hsu. But the power behind the Dragon Throne was the Dowager Empress Tz'u-Hsi, Tung Chih's mother and Kuang Hsu's aunt.

Tz'u Hsi was a woman who took destiny into her own hands and rose from one of many concubines to become the absolute ruler of China. Set behind the walls of the Forbidden City, the drama unfolds as the "Dragon Empress" faces the forces of the modern world which eventually bring the Ch'ing Dynasty to an end.

Tisa Chang, director and actor (and neighbor), has directed "Return of the Phoenix", "The Joy Luck Club" and "Rashomon". She has received many awards for outstanding achievement in theater.

Veteran actor Tina Chen, star of "Empress of China", is also a director and producer. She has appeared on the stage in "The Joy Luck Club" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and in the films "Alice's Restaurant" and "Three Days of the Condor".

The author of "Empress of China", Ruth Wolff, has written extensively for the stage ("The Second Mrs. Wilson", "The Golem") and screen ("The Abdication", "The Incredible Sarah"). Her latest play is "Aviators."

Join with neighbors to enjoy this outstanding drama presented by the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre at the West End Theatre on W. 86th Street at West End Avenue. The show has limited tickets at the special rate of \$25, so please reserve your seats now by calling Rosalyn Cherry at (212) 663-6409.



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Senior Vice President
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Update on Columbia Building at 103rd St. and Broadway

Columbia has an "Information for Our Neighbors" website. On it is a link to "construction" which describes all projects they are currently undertaking. Anyone interested in the new building about to go up on Broadway/103rd can access the site: www.neighbors.columbia.edu.

408 Columbus Avenue, NY, NY 10024
Direct: 212-381-2277 Cell: 917-902-7193
Fax: 212-361-2479
email: jperez@halstead.com

Letter to the Editor

I'm relatively new to the neighborhood (just over three years) and very much appreciate the help and cooperation I've personally received from members of your Block Association. Your hosting of our Newsletters on your website is especially welcomed.

Having moved to the Upper West Side from a small town in Westchester I'm impressed that the sense of community and neighborhood is so much stronger here!

David Reich
102nd St. Block Assn.
(and Editor of their newsletter)

Opinion

How to cope with a chemical attack:
Try prevention

The suggestion from FEMA that duct (or duck) tape and plastic sheeting be used as protection from a chemical attack has been derided. A much more effective and long-term solution is available to us. How about staving off the attack in the first place by electing government officials whose foreign policies are aligned with the wisest lessons history can teach us. Our president is acting contrary to over 200 years of American foreign policy, as Jimmy Carter wrote in a New York Times editorial on March 9. "American stature will surely decline if we launch a war in clear defiance of the United Nations. But to use the presence and threat of our military power to force Iraq's compliance with all United Nations resolutions – with war as a final option – will enhance our status as a champion of peace and justice." Come election time, let's all probe the candidates for their positions on foreign and domestic issues. The ballot box is a powerful instrument – use it.

-- Teresa Elwert

New and different on Broadway

Recent changes to stores on Broadway between 96th and 110th Streets.

- 96 ▪ Fowad clothing store closed
- Chase bank opens
- Twin Donut coming soon where travel agency was
- 98 ▪ Petqua, pet store
- 99 ▪ Metro Theatre closed
- 100 ▪ Fresh Bites replaced another deli
- 101 ▪ Wireless on Broadway replaced shoe repair
- 102 ▪ Ville Toscana restaurant replaced Urban America
- Janovic Plaza replaced CVS
- 103 ▪ Only Lucille Roberts remains in building at site of Columbia U. faculty residence
- 104 ▪ Ben & Jerry's ice cream store coming
- Broadway 104th St Restaurant closed
- 106 ▪ Marcel Cleaners replaced law office/political campaign office
- NR Wireless replaced video rental
- Mail Boxes ETC replaced Samba's Deli
- KFC/Pizza Hut Express replaced La Rosita restaurant
- 107 ▪ Olympia Theatre closed; rumor is an apartment building will be built on site
- 109 ▪ Chinese/Spanish restaurant closed
- Oak 3's, pre-made picture frames and supply (first new retail to open in Manhasset building since 1998 fire)

West 104th St. Block Association

Financial Report Fiscal 2002

OPENING BALANCE 1/1/2002 \$ 5,810.18

Income

Individual Dues	\$ 24,255.00
Co-op Dues	\$ 8,606.00
Grants	\$ 1,500.00
Newsletter Advertisements	\$ 2,162.00
Off-Block Subscriptions	\$ 250.00
Yard Sale Gross	\$ 8,091.50
Curbside Café & Misc.	\$ 204.50
Bank Interest	\$ 10.59

Total income \$ 45,079.59

Disbursements

Guard Service	\$ 30,233.46
Gratuities to Guards	\$ 150.00
Newsletter Production	\$ 2,675.48
Landscaping	\$ 1,019.01
Office Supplies, Printing, etc.	\$ 408.98
"Tree Book" Purchase Incentive	\$ 768.00
Yard Sale Expenses	\$ 2,202.64
Bank Fees	\$ 94.00
Contributions	\$ 50.00

Total disbursements \$ 37,591.57

CLOSING BALANCE 12/31/02 \$ 13,298.20

Financial Report December 2002

Opening balance \$ 15,888.23

Income

Dues	\$ 225.00
Newsletter Ads	\$ 40.00

Total income \$ 265.00

Disbursements

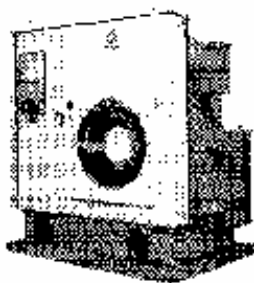
Guard Service	\$ 2,225.02
Holiday Gifts to guards	\$ 125.00
Newsletter production	\$ 433.01
"Tree Book" purchases	\$ 72.00

Total disbursements \$ 2,855.03

CLOSING BALANCE 12/31/02 \$ 13,298.20

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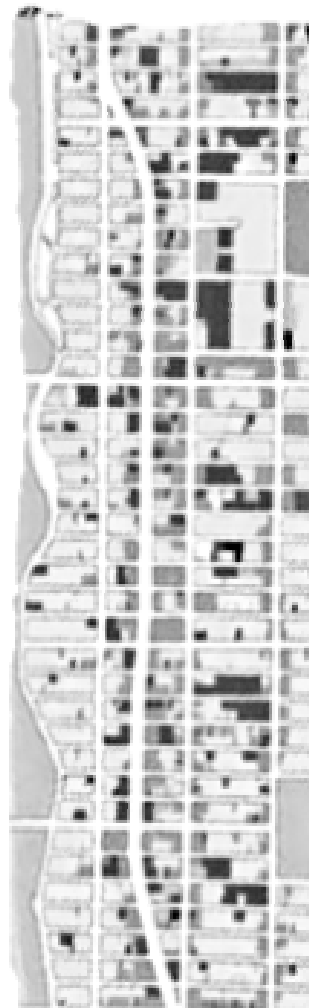
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Multi-Block Street Fairs for 2003

Date	Organization	Street Location
4/27	Veritas Family & Children's Services	Broadway 96-104
4/27	Duke Ellington Blvd Neighborhood	Broadway 104-108
4/27	24th Precinct Community Council	Broadway 108-110
5/4	Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council	Broadway 93-96
5/4	Broadway Malls Center	Broadway 86-93
5/11	Center for Environmentally Sound Development	Broadway 60-65
5/18	West Side Chamber of Commerce	Amsterdam 77-96
5/25	Coalition for a Livable West Side	Broadway 72-82
5/25	Safe Haven West Side Basketball	Broadway 82-86
6/1	Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition	Columbus 91-96
6/1	Westside Crime Prevention Program	Columbus 86-91
6/15	West Side Fed of Neighborhood & Block Assns	Broadway 72-82
6/15	The Broadway Malls Assn.	Broadway 82-86
6/22	Project Open at Lincoln Center Towers	Broadway 66-72
6/22	Valley Restoration, LDC	Amsterdam 97-106
6/29	Columbus Amsterdam BID	Columbus 96-101
8/3	Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center	Columbus 66-72
9/21	West Side Chamber of Commerce	Columbus 66-86
10/12	Concerned Citizens for Community Action	Amsterdam 81-86
10/12	St. Matthews & St. Timothy's Center	Amsterdam 76-81
10/19	NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch	Broadway 86-90
10/19	Symphony Space	Broadway 90-96
10/26	One Stop Senior Services	Broadway 106-110
10/26	Bloomingdale Area Coalition	Broadway 96-106



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Jack Price: General Painting and cleaning—apartments, houses, offices, etc. Telephone: 718.961.459; e-mail: JPNYCity@aol.com

Cat sitter Responsible, experienced. Comes twice a day and pets, feeds, and plays with your cat. References available. Charges \$5 a day. Lydia, age 12, resident of 905 West End Ave. 212.865.6588

Web site design, development, and promotion for small and mid-sized businesses. Adam Watson; resident of 321 W. 104; www.wetcementdesign.com; 212.316.2651; email: adam@wetcementdesign.com

Cat Cottage/Cat Calls. Cat sitter: feed, give medication, scoop out pan, Jeanne Adlon, recommended by block resident 212.734.6866

Private yoga and pre-natal yoga in the comfort of your home by a certified Hatha yoga teacher. Harininiyoga, block resident, 917.968.6457

Available for babysitting: Former nursery teacher, youthful, playful grandmother, evenings, feeding, storytelling, singing. Block Association board member. \$10.00 p/hr. Call Estelle at 212.866.9731

Coral calcium: Bob Barefoot formula: discounted. It really works! Ca20 Co., 212.678.2128, starthealthy@msm.com

Your neighborhood service publicized – free!

You can publicize your neighborhood service (babysitting, dog walking, apartment cleaning, etc.) for free in the newsletter and on our web site if you live on the block. Off-block residents must be recommended by a block resident and pay an annual \$25 fee. To submit an ad, fill out the form on our web site at www.bloomingdale.org under "Neighborhood Services for Hire." We've been asked about starting a swap service, auction, or other type of goods marketplace on the web site. As soon as we figure out how to make that happen without creating a lot of work for our webmaster, we'll do it!

Submit your listing by mailing or hand-delivering the following information to Teresa Elwert, 320 Riverside Dr., #9D.

For our records: your name and mailing address

For publication: your name, contact method (phone # or e-mail address), service description

Placement: newsletter, website, or both

Dues 1st Quarter 1/03 - 3/03

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Address _____ Apt. No. _____

Make check payable to West 104th Street Block Association Inc.

Mail to our treasurer:

Sid Herzfeld, 895 WEA., Apt.5D New York, NY 10025

or drop off at

320 RSD: Elwert, Apt. 9D,

905 WEA: Bryan Apt. 141, 309 W 104th: Deegan, Apt. 5B