

West 104th Street

BLOCK ASSOCIATION

June 23, 2000

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Nancy Lian

Layout and Design: John Johnston

Major Changes for Broadway

Broadway between 96th and 110th Streets appears slated for major and dramatic changes, raising concerns for neighborhood leaders and politicians. In this section of Broadway, there are 13 two-or three-story buildings. Two of them—the Olympia Theatre at 107th and the D'Agostino building—are already targeted for replacement by 25+ story buildings. The buildings in our neighborhood generally have 16 stories (315 RSD at 20 stories and 310 RSD at 24 stories are two rare exceptions. Look for more on the redevelopment issue in future newsletters and in the local press. What do you think about the redevelopment of Broadway? Let any board member know.

On a somewhat related matter, yet another major drug chain is moving into the neighborhood. This time it's CVS which has apparently signed a lease for the former Associated Supermarket space between 102nd and 103rd Streets. This puts it directly opposite a Duane Reade, and one block away from Rite Aid and Suba Pharmaceuticals, the lone independent pharmacy in our neighborhood. Say NO to CVS by signing the petition in the lobby of your building today. Your building's petition captain can provide a copy if it's missing:

315 RSD	Marsha Tantleff (932 9592)
320 RSD	Wendy Wolfe (865 2794)
308 W 104	Trudi Grace (222 2303)
309 W 104	Michael Deegan (222 4938)
895 WEA	Alex Grannis (316 1644)
905 WEA	Laurie Falken (662 1466)
Brownstones	Teresa Elwert (866 4260)

Mark Your Calendar: Yard Sale Saturday, September 16

We're having an autumn Yard Sale again this year. Vendors: for the umpteenth consecutive year, we have not raised the price to rent a space. Block association members pay \$30 for 10 square feet (limit two spaces); non-members pay \$45.

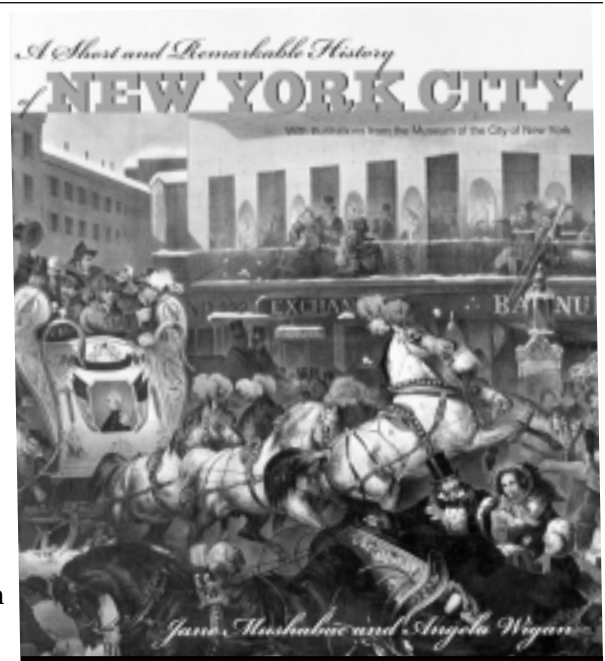
We have reason to believe that this year's Yard Sale will be attended by more people than ever before because we're doubling our publicity efforts; we aim to get every New York City-focused Internet site to list the Yard Sale on its events page. So your antiques, toys, household items, jewelry, pots and pans, and assorted goodies should have more buyers than ever before. Complete information on being a vendor (including the required vendor agreement) is available on our website: www.bloomingdale.org; click Yard Sale, then click For Vendors. If you don't have Internet access, call Marsha Tantleff (932 9592) who will be happy to give you the information you need.

If you are not to be a vendor, perhaps you'd like to help out at the book, food, bakery, or breakfast tables. Call Teresa Elwert (866 4260) for the complete scoop.

Author! Author!

Two block residents—Erik Kolbell and Angela Wigan Marvin—are each co-authors of two recently published books. Erik (320 RSD) wrote many chapters of **For the People** (Rodale Press), which deals with giving people advice on how to make their elected representatives more accountable. One of the chapters Erik wrote featured the Straus Park redesign.

Angela (905 WEA) and Jane Mushabac (98th and WEA) wrote **A Short and Remarkable History of New York City** (Fordham University Press) with illustrations from the Museum of the City of New York. Angela's book can be ordered through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



Hudson Beach Cafe Is Open

It used to be that on Saturday nights block residents and their guests made a beeline eastward for Broadway's restaurants. Increasingly, however, the beeline is headed westward to the Hudson Beach Cafe in Riverside Park. The cafe, at 105th St., has a liquor license and restrooms and is open seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., weather permitting. Raymond Thillet, the friendly manager, is reachable at 917 567 2743.

Saturday Sanitation Schedule Change

You can now sleep an hour later Saturday mornings! The Sanitation Department agreed to change the Saturday garbage pickup schedule for our block from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., as a direct result of the petition you signed last fall. Phil Galdston of 309 West 104 organized the effort. Thanks, Phil, and a thank you to those who signed the petition.

Doe Fund Beautifies Our Block

The block association was very fortunate to have Wayne, Arthur, Rick, and Robert plant impatiens and other flowers on our block in mid-May. They are four of the men of the Doe Fund (www.doe.org), a program that offers men and women work and work skills training. For the second consecutive year, Doe Fund workers will water our flowers and trees at least once a week. You'll recognize them by their blue uniforms. You can support the Fund with a tax-deductible contribution by mailing your check to The Doe Fund, 232 E. 84th St., New York, NY 10028.

It's not too late to buy a share in the Roxbury Farm CSA (Community Support Agriculture). Call 539 3826 for details.

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Leash Laws: Chapters and Verses

Just what you always wanted to know: the NYC leash law! New York City Health Code 161.05 reads: "A person who owns, possesses, or controls a dog shall not permit it to be in any public place or in any open or unfenced area abutting on a public place unless the dog is restrained by a leash or chain not more than six feet long." Translation: leash your dog in public!

Slightly different leash rules apply in City parks. Park regulations state that dogs must be leashed (1-04(i)) except in dog runs (105(s)(3)). Additionally, in Riverside Park, the commissioner, who owns Boomer, a golden retriever, has permitted dogs to be off the leash between 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. (that's evening through early morning), except where posted signs prohibit off-leash dogs. Enjoy your pet!

Danger Ahead: Asian Longhorned Beetle

Enclosed with this newsletter is a Pest Alert from the US Forest Service on the Asian Longhorned Beetle, the biggest threat to North American trees since Dutch Elm disease wiped out American Elm trees in the fifties. We urge you to read the alert thoroughly and actively engage yourself and your family in the fight against the beetle. Observe our maple, sycamore, and elm trees for signs of the devastating disease and immediately call **1 800 201 PARK** when you see them

What's New on Our Website?

The first thing that's new on www.bloomingdale.org is a **What's New** section on the homepage, where you'll find links to the latest additions to the site. Among the new postings:

- 3Q2000 contest: Win a free West 104 T-shirt by providing the correct common and Latin names of the oak tree in front of 319 West 104
- Links to Riverside Clay Tennis Association, The Movie Place, D.O.G. (Dog Owners Group)
- Aerial photo of Riverside Park in 1908, courtesy of Kathleen Hulser

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

President: Teresa Elwert
VP / Secretary: Nancy Lian
Treasurer: Sid Herzfeld

Members: Ned Barnard
Barbara Bryan
Michael Deegan
Sheila Garden
**West 104th
Street Block
Association
Board**: Alex Grannis
John Johnston
Mimi Schade
Marsha Tantleff

E-mail: West104block@hotmail.com

Subway Station Repainting Promised

The block association recently obtained a commitment from Norris Singleton, the manager of the 103rd St. subway station, to scrape and repaint the ceiling of the southbound platform. You may have noticed that large sections of thickly layered paint have been peeling over the past nine months or so, creating a hazard for everyone walking underneath. The block association needs someone to follow up with Norris on this issue. Call Teresa Elwert at 866 4260.

Norway Maple Tree Heals Itself

By Teresa Elwert

In mid-April, Laurie Falken of 905 WEA noticed that the leaves on the Norway maple tree in front of her building were shriveling up. I called Kevin Kenny at Bartlett Tree Service, the company that had recently fertilized the trees on our block. Kevin said the tree was suffering from an early April frost and that it would soon recover and relauf. Kevin explained that trees, like people, are highly individualistic and one tree in a grove could behave quite differently from its neighbors. Sure enough, the ailing tree soon grew a new canopy of healthy leaves and is now doing just fine, thank you.

105th Street Dog Run Improved

The refurbished dog run at 105th St. is a prime example of a public/private partnership among the Riverside Park Fund, the Parks Department, and D.O.G. (Dog Owners Group) of Riverside Park. The \$75,000 project included a double-gated entry; a central play area of compacted, crushed brownstone; an outer dog run of wood chips; a separate area for small dogs; World's Fair benches, and new plantings. Dog owners will maintain the run on an ongoing basis; make your tax-deductible contribution payable to Riverside Park Fund; 475 Riverside Dr., Suite 249, NY, NY 10115-0122.

Terry Fonville of 315 RSD and John Herrold of 925 WEA were key citizen members of the team that organized the renovation. Thank you, Terry and John, and all the dog owners who made the project a reality!



James Perez
Vice President

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Can't Sit Down: How a large woman copes with New York's small seats

By Gail Bryce

It's hard to be fat in New York City. Never mind the housing crisis; I'm concerned about the seating crisis.... I have a big rear end. Now it has become as tricky for me to find a seat that fits as skirts and pants that fit.

Our city is blessed with a tolerance for differences in outlook and appearance—but not rump size. Space is at a premium and buttocks that exceed their boundaries are rude. There was a time when I could just sit down anywhere and ride without thinking, but now it takes strategy—and courage.

The city's new subways are clean and air-conditioned, but their little contoured seats show no mercy. However, there is one place where I can sit easily, even on a jam-packed car at the end of the row by the doors. No matter how snug the corner, I can fit.

If you have a big bottom and love the theater, you're in trouble. When Broadway's landmark theaters were built, the average New Yorker must have been the size of the Artist Formerly Known as Prince.

It's time New York's public seating entered the 21st Century, where one in three people is now classed as obese. That person wants to see "Kiss Me Kate" in comfort.

Treasurer's Report for May 2000—Sid Herzfeld

OPENING BALANCE 5/1/00		\$13,638.35
INCOME		
Bank interest	14.62	
Dues	1,255.00	
Advertising Incom	130.00	
Off-block contributions	100.00	
TOTAL INCOME	1,499.62	+1,499.62
DISBURSEMENTS		
Guard Service	2,300.54	
Tips to Guard	50.00	
Landscaping	478.47	
Newsletter Production	225.00	
Postage	19.80	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	3,073.81	-3,073.81
CLOSING BALANCE 5/31/00		\$12,064.16

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Calendar of Selected Events

June and July Get involved in the NO to CVS petition campaign; call Jock Davenport for more info (662-8825)

7/3-7/9 OpSail 2000, New York Harbor and Hudson River

7/8 New York Family Arts Festival. Opening day of a program continuing until 7/23; 91 Claremont Ave. at 120 St.; includes African dancers & storytellers, Brazilian Capoeira, Korean drums & dancers. Sponsor: Riverside Church. Call 870-6784 for more information.

7/11 Medea by Euripides, presented by the Cypreco Theater Group. Bloomingdale Library, 150 W. 100 St., 6:30 pm. Free

7/12 The Ellington Project in Straus Park. 5:30 pm to 8 pm. Jazz at the Fountain. (Rain date Thursday, July 13)

7/13 Conservatory Garden. Fifth Avenue at 105th St. Go anytime for a beautiful garden experience; you may even see a wedding.

7/30 Falstaff, by Verdi. Fully staged opera, Tanglewood Music Center, Massachusetts, Seiji Ozawa, conductor, John Michael Deegan and Sarah G. Conly, design, 8pm. Repeats on 7/31.

9/16 104th Street Annual Yard Sale.

Summer Bloomingdale Library Specials for Children

7/5-31 Reading Aloud for ages 3 to 6 daily at 4 pm.

7/7 Puppet Show: Jeremy's Jungle Adventure, presented by Puppets to Go for children ages 5 to 10. Sponsored by CLASP. 3:30 pm

7/12 Film Program for ages 3 to 7, 4 pm.

7/18 Two-year-old toddler hour, with parent/caregiver. Continues Tuesdays 7/25, 8/1 and 8/8. Preregistration is required. Call 222-8030.

7/21 Stories for Joining In, with Music and Games. Presented by John Colligan for children ages 5 to 12. Sponsored by CLASP, 4 pm.

7/26 The Kids' Project. A disability awareness puppet show for ages 7 to 12. Funded in part by NYSOMRDD. 3:30 pm.

Outdoor Grilling Etiquette

There's nothing like great tasting bar-b-que! In the city, however, outdoor grilling is subject to a stringent law and is the source of noxious fumes. Under New York City fire code rules, grills must be 10 feet from combustible material, including trees. Few places on our block meet this ten-foot rule. In addition, using lighter fluid in the confined space of a city backyard means your neighbors must endure its noxious smell. (The block association will reduce its use of lighter fluid at the September 16 Yard Sale.)

Summertime and the Livin' Is Easy

Summertime brings both pleasures and issues of concern to city dwellers. Below are three items to help make the warm months a pleasure for all residents.

Safety Tip: Installing Air Conditioners

Please keep safety—yours and others'—first when installing your air conditioner this summer. Never install or remove an air conditioner by yourself, no matter how small it is or how many times you've done the job alone before. Check with your super about your building's rules; you may need to have him review and approve an installation done without the help of building staff.

Outdoor Entertaining Etiquette

To residents with outdoor living spaces. When you entertain outdoors, be aware that your conversation and music is experienced not just by your invited guests but by your neighbors, too. Your sounds are amplified by the surrounding buildings and sent floating upward to the apartments that overlook your backyard or terrace. Please do the neighborly thing and move your party indoors after 11:00 p.m.

To residents bothered by late-night outdoor parties. What can you do about the noise? Close your windows, use ear-plugs, meditate it away (yeah, right), or call the precinct (**678 1811**) with the address of the party. The police will tell the host that there have been noise complaints. The more complaints the police get, the more seriously they will treat them.

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Thank you to our 2000 dues contributors

The block association's activities are made possible in large part by quarterly dues payments from our residents. Below and on the reverse are the residents who have so generously sent in their dues this year. Thank you! Add your name to this list by making your second quarter payment today; use the contribution slip on the last page.

895 West End*

Adler
Barnard
Blumenstein
Campbell
Fara/Nickel-Fara
Greenstein
Huber
Jubak/D'Amico
Kraemer
Magidoff
Mulvihill
Pollard/Dreyfuss
Saint-Amour/Mew
Solomon
Sproule
Stanley

905 West End

Bauer/Vigliarolo
Bleakie
Bryan
Cohn
Connell
Cooper/Cammett
Falken
Farley
Frey/Amenta
Garden
Harlan/Cavanaugh
Hoffman
Jenkins
Johnston
Marvin
Owles/Goldfried
Partilla
Patton
Ratray
Richards/List
Rogers
Sawitz/Noys
Sohmer/Sivardi
Versandi
Wildman/Collins

Brownstones

Accetta
Aldridge
Brown
Bryce
Clark
Harris
Maheshwari/Singh
Nash
Rappaport
Ronay
Tsai

308 West 104

Basner
Feingold
Gordon
Grace
Halak
Harwood
Hirsch
Maslansky/Fox
Miller
Mitelman
O'Halloran/Gallagher
Potts/Sherman
Weich
Yahaloni
Young/Jackson

309 West 104

Alexander
Baldwin
Conly/ Deegan
Constantine
Drummond
Duhan
Maita
Morman/Solomon
Ost/Hughes
Patisso/Pollak-Patisso
Randall/Pred
Resnick
Schwartz
Schwartz/Tapper
Simon
Stewart
Wakefield/Peters

315 Riverside Dr.*

Ajami
Bender/Max
Bisgeier
Bogen
Cawley/Wu
Cynamon
Falk
Fine
Gerbasio/Barron
Grabois
Harter
Ledogar
Lee
Malpica
Meier/Sherman
Parker
Pollack
Prager
Rasic
Rubin
Sandberg
Tantleff
Williams
Willner

320 Riverside Dr.

Bakal/Mannucci
Baqi
Bart/Moore
Benjamin/Kowal
Bien/Bonet
Bieri/Veissid
Blaustein/Bokor
Blier
Borras
Braswell
Brookfield
Christiansen
Cohen/Dugan
Crouch
Dunning
Elwert
Emanuel
Epstein/Miller
Fridkis/Horne
Goldberg/Wolfe
Goldman
Granatstein/Soriano
Grishman/Sampliner
Gross
Heidel
Hoffman/Mitchell
Hornstein
Jones
Kalish

(320 Riverside Drive Cont.)

Katz
Kolbell
Koral
Krassner
Lager/Taylor
Latessa/Hilton
Latona
Leonard/Guimard
Lerman
Lian
Linderman/Granowitz
Makleff
Mehrer
Nienaber/von Turk
Onishi
Page/Smith
Paradis
Penn
Pfeifer/Block
Pietrasiewicz
Ra
Randall
Rashkover/Trahan
Reiss
Russo
Singer/Einhorn
Slade
Smith
Stampfer
Tauber/vonBardeleben
Taussig
Thompson
Van Ments
Vanderveen/Lliano
Vartanian
Vaughn
Veilleux
Voorhees
Waskow
Weinreb
Woodbury/ Tolkow
Zaret/Karlin

*A special thank you to the shareholders of 895 West End and 315 Riverside who have authorized their boards of directors to contribute the equivalent of \$50 per household to the block association. **Thank you!**

Turn of 20th Century Lighting

Ray Hoey of 924 WEA is spearheading a proposal to install early-20th century lighting in the neighborhood. The block association has looked at the proposal, and while we find it appealing, we also find the cost prohibitive and therefore can't support it at this time.

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What Your Dues Are Paying For This Summer

Your second quarter dues will help pay for summer guard service, which costs \$2,800 a month, and our beautification projects. Our beautiful summer flowers cost \$500. The cost to water them is another \$500. The spring and fall tree fertilization costs \$950.

We desperately need your contributions now in order to pay for these expenses. Our bank balance may look healthy but many block residents have already contributed the suggested annual dues (\$100) so our \$12,000 bank balance will drop precipitously this summer unless you, who have not yet made a 2000 contribution, send in your dues. You all benefit from the guard and our well-cared for flowers and trees so please make as generous a financial contribution as you can. Thank you so very much.

Mail your 2nd quarter dues
before you leave for the summer!

Return to Seven-Day Guard Service

The block association board has voted to return to seven-day guard service, effective June 16, through at least the end of September. At the same time, the guard is working the summer hours (5 p.m. to 1 a.m.). We've been very fortunate to have a conscientious and friendly guard these past few months. If you haven't already met Jamel Young, introduce yourself to him when he comes back from vacation in early July.

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or drop off at**

**315 RSD: Steinhardt, Apt. 18B, 320 RSD: Elwert, Apt. 9D,
905 WEA: Bryan Apt. 141, 309 W 104th: Deegan, Apt. 5B**