

West 104th Street

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

June 22, 2015

EDITOR: Jon Smith



Summer Flowers are In!

The weather is beautiful and so are our tree wells! Thanks to your dues and Urban Explorations, the landscaping company, our tree wells and its array of flowers will certainly quiet your mind as you stroll the block before and after a hectic day.

The tree wells contain angel-wing begonias, coleus, ferns, as well as our perennials of bleeding hearts, ivy and hostas.

Please help us maintain these beautiful flower beds by ensuring your building staff water frequently, keeping dogs away from the beds and picking up any trash.

Lastly, if you have not yet paid your block association dues, please do so now either by check or using PayPal on our website: www.bloomingdale.org. It is your generosity that enables us to beautify your block.

Mary Koval

Meet Our New Security Guard!



Please welcome our new security guard, Osbourne Thomas. Mr. Thomas has replaced John Dorilas, our long term security guard, who accepted another position. We are sure you will find Mr. Thomas as helpful and friendly as John.

Mr. Thomas is visible by his orange vest and flashlight. His hours may vary according to season, but he is generally present between 4PM and midnight. His role is intended as a deterrent to unwanted and criminal activity on the street. He is not armed and does not function in the capacity of a police officer. Should criminal activity occur or a medical emergency arises, he is instructed to report it immediately to the appropriate agency. He is also available to escort you home in the evening.

He carries a dedicated phone and will meet you at either West End Ave or Riverside Drive. The phone number is 347-723-1517.

Please take a moment to welcome Mr. Thomas to the neighborhood. Member dues and other contributions pay for the security guard. Don't delay – pay your dues today!

Mary Koval

Citi-Bikes Are Coming To Our Neighborhood!

A Citi-Bike station is planned for our area in August. While a straw poll indicated that a majority of our residents are in favor of the new Citi-Bike station, many were concerned of the proposed location of the bikes. The Citi-Bikes are slated to be placed just north of W. 104th Street on Riverside Drive (park side). There was no statement as to the number of bikes at the station.

Our Community Board 7 recently held a public forum to hear comments about this location and some of our residents attended to voice their concerns. Many

felt it would be better served a few blocks north or south of W. 104th Street so as not to add to the congestion that already exists near the park entrance. CB7 members conducted a site visit at the proposed location and agreed that the area is congested and the placement of the bikes here may cause a safety issue due to the amount of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. They will propose to the Department of Transportation that the Citi-Bike station be located north of W. 103rd where there is no parking on the west side of southbound Riverside Drive.

A decision should come in July so monitor your emails and/or check our website at www.bloomingdale.org for updated information.

Read the Newsletter Early Online!!!

There is a seven to ten day lag between finishing the newsletter and its delivery to your door. We usually post the newsletter to our website as soon as it gets sent to the printer so if you want to know what's happening before you receive your copy, go to our website.

<http://bloomingdale.org/newsletters/>

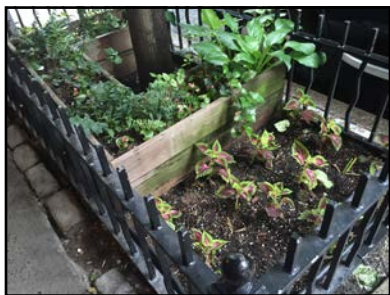
ADOPT YOUR FAVORITE TREE WELL!! VOLUNTEER FOR SPRING BULB PLANTING!!

We need a small army of volunteers to plant spring bulbs in 20 tree wells towards the end of October or the beginning of November. We'll supply the bulbs and the gardening equipment, you'll supply the enthusiasm! Please contact Lynn Max to volunteer.

lynnbendermax@gmail.com

We would like to hear from you before we order the bulbs, around mid-September.

Thank you!



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Photos: Mary Koval, Karen Gershenhorn, Jon Smith

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We fully support Fair Housing, both in the spirit and the letter of the law.

W 104 ST BLOCK ASSN FINANCIAL REPORT May 2015

Opening Balance (5/01/15)		\$29,064.20
Income		
Dues	390.00	
Newsletter Ads	215.00	
Interest	3.16	
Total	+608.16	+608.16
Disbursements		
Guard service	3363.78	
Guard supplement	100.00	
Misc	75.00	
Total	-3538.78	-3538.78
Deposit delayed		-185.00
Closing Balance (5/31/15)		\$25,948.58

If you would like to write for the 104th Street Newsletter, we'd love to hear from you.

Please send Jon an email at:

104thstreetba@gmail.com

Contributors to the June issue:

Barbara Boynton, Bonnie Dry, Karen Gershenhorn, Trudie Grace, Jeff Howitt, Mary Koval, Lynn Max, Liz Rudey, Jon Smith

West 104th Street Block Association Board

President	Gary Waskow	320 RSD	212.932.9082
VP	Alex Grannis	895 WEA	212.316.1644
Secretary	Mary Koval	895 WEA	212.866.3556
Treasurer	Barbara Boynton	905 WEA	212.864.1011
Members	Beverly Block,	320 RSD	440.935.0607
	Barbara Bryan	315 RSD	212.864.5663
	Bonnie Dry	315 RSD	212.222.2102
	Trudie Grace	308 W 104	212.222.2303
	Jeff Howitt	315 RSD	212.866.5569
	Nancy Lian	320 RSD	212.316.6112
	Joyce Mann	309 W 104	212.721.6341
	Martin Mann	309 W 104	212.721.6341
	Lynn Max	315 RSD	212.666.3129
	Jon Smith	320 RSD	212.222.4431
	Steven Zirinsky	315 RSD	212.866.6732
Emeritus	Sid Herzfeld,	895 WEA	212.749.0085

24th Precinct Community Council Meeting

Trudie Grace

The meeting of May 20 primarily involved a presentation by Captain Marlon Larin, commanding officer. He noted that, in the twenty-eight day period ending May 17, there was a significant jump in grand larceny, largely attributable to identity theft. The latter often involves Social Security numbers on Medicare cards as well as charges on PayPal for non-existent events. Unattended property, including in Riverside Park, continues to be a problem. Car break-ins on the Upper West Side often target SUVs and vehicles with out-of-state plates.

Captain Larin also noted that crime in the transit system on the Broadway corridor is quite different than last year because of many more cases of pickpocketing, particularly involving females of Asian descent, the elderly, and sleepers, among them the inebriated. He added that there are at least three pick pocket teams working between Times Square and 116 Street and that they are good at spotting the police.

Captain Larin went through some of the most significant issues involving the "Broken Windows Policing" report, which has been in the news and is concerned with crime and police responses in NYC. Available online, it is controversial but has the support of NYC Police Commissioner William Bratton, who has recently defended initiatives underway.

One of two initiatives, among others, that Captain Larin discussed in detail is the Domain Awareness System involving license plate readers able to identify owners for whom there are arrest warrants, owners who are on a terrorist watch list, etc. A second initiative about which Captain Larin feels strongly utilizes neighborhood coordination officers trained to identify and address long-term problems by being steady points of contact and engendering trust.

Captain Larin invites community members to be in touch with him to discuss problems they see in the precinct and how the police can handle them better.

BUY YOUR SHAMPOO and TOOTHPASTE HERE!!!!

Liz Rudey

Recently I stopped into Suba Pharmacy on the corner of 104th Street and Broadway to ask for valued advice from Mr. Suba. For as long as I have lived on 104th Street, Suba pharmacy has been here too! For 33 years, Bashir Suba has been filling prescriptions and selling all manner of other products. On my recent visit to ask about the interaction of two medicines, he mentioned that if people would also buy their sundries at his store, he would be able to stay in business. An alarm went off in my head. What would I do without this small, intimate, caring pharmacy where the owner knows the names of everyone in my family when we walk in the door?

I thought about going to the large chain drugstores in the neighborhood to buy toothpaste, aspirin, shampoo and more. The prices are often the same (sometimes less at Suba!) and I would be supporting this valuable, local asset up the street.

I returned the next day and bought some toothpaste, shampoo and herbal supplements, about which Mr. Suba knows so much. He currently has a side business (within the store) making medicines and supplements for pets!!! I thought that by writing this short plea, for our newsletter, I might encourage everyone to buy dental floss and baby powder at Suba and not at the impersonal chain stores. Let's keep Mr. Suba on the corner!!



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Quality Organic Cleaners

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212-666-8080

www.fvcleaners.com

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What Improvements Would YOU Recommend in our Neighborhood?

Let Us Know!

As an advocate for you, our block residents, we are in constant contact with our Council Member, Helen Rosenthal, and Assembly Member, Daniel O'Donnell. Helen Rosenthal has asked for our ideas for improving bicycle and pedestrian safety and any other issues.

Please let us know your ideas on bicycle safety and pedestrian safety. Please contact Gary Waskow, West 104th Street Block Association Board President at:

west104blockassociation@gmail.com

You may also leave your suggestion by visiting our **NEW** Community Bulletin Board at:

<http://bloomingdale.org/resources/forum/>



Interested in Discussing Block Activities for Your Kids? Please contact Mary Koval, Board Member, at mtkoyal@aol.com

COMMUNITY CORNER

Secret Garden on West 97th Street

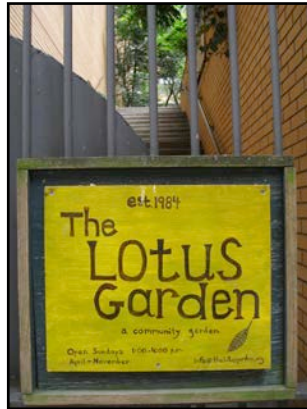
By Karen Gershenhorn

New York is a city of extremes—and that includes gardening. You may not fully appreciate the extreme efforts of volunteers in greening our city. Bryant, Riverside, and Central Parks—now gems—were recently dustbowls, full of trash and unsavory elements. When the city lacked the necessary resources, New Yorkers rolled up their sleeves to improve neighborhoods by gardening in vacant lots and abandoned park areas.

High atop a parking garage, hidden behind a gate and up a flight of stairs, The Lotus Garden (West 97th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam) is a beautiful and peaceful 7,000 sq.-foot urban oasis maintained by a small community of gardeners, many of whom are artists, and other volunteers. On the occasion of its 30th anniversary in 2014, a Times article, "The Garage That Bloomed," highlighted the garden, which includes winding paths, fish ponds, fruit trees, herbs, flowering shrubs, and 28 individually designed and maintained garden plots. Twenty feet above the street, birds nest and sing, blooming flowers scent the air, truly local peaches grow, and sirens seem far away.

The Lotus Garden's origins can be traced back to 1977, when The Garden People began planting in a vacant lot at Broadway and 96th Street, the former site of the Riverside and Riviera movie theaters—where the Columbia condominium now stands. When the bulldozers arrived in 1981, this group got Parks Department permission to start a new garden in its current location (of *You've Got Mail* fame) in Riverside Park.

The Broadway site became the genesis of The Lotus Garden. Community opposition to suggested development projects led to an



organization of local block associations, gardeners, the City Planning Commission, Community Board 7, and the Trust for Public Land. The resulting committee, spearheaded by horticulturist Carrie Maher and architect Mark Greenwald, worked with real estate developer William Zeckendorf Jr. for over a year, and persuaded him to translate this neighborhood green space into an amenity that would enhance his new building. Zeckendorf built stairs to the roof of a parking garage from a gate on the street, a cherry picker lofted 3-1/2 feet of topsoil onto the roof, and the garden officially opened in 1984.

The garden is open to the public on Sunday afternoons (1 to 4 PM) during gardening season, April through mid-November, unless the weather is particularly inclement. Key holders have access to the garden during daylight hours, seven days a week. Membership for one year is \$20 and \$10 for seniors. To become a member, visit the garden on a Sunday afternoon during public hours and speak with a gardener on duty to purchase a key. (Regrettably, The Lotus Garden is not wheelchair accessible, as access to the garden requires climbing a flight of stairs.)

The garden is financed solely by dues from gardeners, annual membership fees from key holders, and donations from the public.

For more information, check out the garden's website (<http://www.TheLotusGarden.org/wp/>) or speak with Karen Gershenhorn (GnomeDeMer@gmail.com), who's now in her second year gardening under the peach tree. (I'll also talk your ear off about adventures in volunteer gardening in Riverside Park.)



Please visit the garden on a Sunday afternoon! Look for the iron gate east of the parking garage on the south side of West 97th Street between Broadway and West End Avenue. Gardeners are on duty to answer any questions and sign up new key holders. All are invited to visit and experience this special place, become a community key holder, or volunteer. (Volunteering is often a preliminary step to becoming an active gardener.)



James Perez

Senior Vice President/Associate Broker

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For up-to-the-minute community news, visit our website at:

<http://bloomingdale.org/our-neighborhood/community-corner/>

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NEW

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What is Compounding?

Pharmacy compounding is the art and science of preparing customized medications for patients. Within the last two decades, compounding has experienced a resurgence as modern technology and innovative techniques and research have allowed more pharmacists to customize medications to meet specific patient needs.

There are several reasons why pharmacists compound prescription medications. The most important one is what the medical community calls "patient non-compliance." Many patients are allergic to preservatives or dyes, or are sensitive to standard drug strengths. With a physician's consent, a compounding pharmacist can change the strength of a medication, alter its form to make it easier for the patient to ingest, or add flavor to make it more palatable. The pharmacist also can prepare the medication using several unique delivery systems, such as a sublingual troche or lozenge, a lollipop, or a transdermal gel or cream that can be absorbed through the skin. For those patients who are having a hard time swallowing a capsule, a compounding pharmacist can make a liquid suspension instead.

As an accredited Compounding Pharmacist, Suba will work with your physician, your pet's veterinarian or the healthcare practitioner of your choice to prepare medications specially formulated to meet your individual needs. For more information, talk to Suba or your physician.

2721 Broadway Corner of 104th St. and Broadway
New York, NY
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BASHIR SUBA RPH
PCCA MEMBER

Discover an Exotic Marketplace in your own Front Yard . . .

26th Annual West 104th Street Yard Sale

On October 3 at the Twenty-Sixth Annual West 104th Street Yard Sale, enjoy the sunshine, the breeze off the Hudson, and the company of more than 1,000 neighbors as you pursue the . . .

- bargain of a lifetime
- last pristine, second-hand copy of the first book that changed your life
- tastiest masterpiece ever baked in a neighbor's oven
- raffle winnings to make your dream come true
- knick-knack that will end hassles and start conversations
- live performance of the songs that you hum in the shower
- winning bid on gift certificates for local stores and restaurants
- winning bid on a neighbor's discarded treasure
- opportunity to meet the intriguing person whom you see on the subway platform every day
- fun way to raise funds to keep our community safe, welcoming, and beautiful

In the comfort of our community, you can enjoy the pleasures of an exotic street market in a far-away land. While tapping your foot to live music performed by seasoned New York musicians, you can shop in more than 60 stalls bursting with treasures retrieved from the farthest reaches of your neighbors' forgotten closets. At the Silent Auction, you can place a bid on gift certificates donated by local merchants, restaurateurs, museums, and cultural institutions, as well as on valuable items donated by neighbors.

At the book tables, you can browse a large selection of novels, plays, poetry, history, biography, children's books, coffee-table volumes, cookbooks, atlases, dictionaries, single-volume scores, and other books and CDs in good condition. Before dropping by the "What-A-Bargain" table to hunt down the two-dollar find that will make your life complete, you can stop first at the Bake Sale to pick up a dessert for dinner.

Before the raffle drawing at the end of the day, don't forget to purchase a roll of tickets. The winning ticket entitles you to half the pot. (Last year's winner took home \$1,120.50.) The second-place ticket earns you \$100; the third-place ticket, \$50.

Although the Yard Sale is weeks away, you can start to prepare today by . . .

- Considering the benefits of booking a space for a vendor stall where you can relieve apartment clutter by selling vintage treasures. After September 1, visit www.bloomingdale.org/vendor.htm. Or, contact Gary Waskow at 212-932-9082 or waskowg@yahoo.com. Rates are \$55 for block residents and \$70 for non-block residents.
- Culling books from your shelves to donate to the Book Table
- Gathering items from your closets and shelves for donation to the Silent Auction or "What-A-Bargain"
- Deciding to volunteer to help set up, break down, or staff the tables for books, baked goods, bargains, refreshments, or the Silent Auction.

In the coming weeks, look for flyers with details on donating and participating. Most importantly, prepare for a great day of celebrating and supporting the neighborhood that we love.



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SUMMER EVENTS 2015

For an endless listing of wonderful events, many free, in New York City this summer, please visit the following websites:

Central Park Conservancy

www.centralparknyc.org

Riverside Park Conservancy

<https://riversideparknyc.org>

All NYC Parks

www.nyc.gov/parks

New York City Events

www.nycgo.com/free

October 3rd: SAVE THE DATE!

West 104th STREET'S YARD SALE!!

Ongoing

NYC Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center. This venue offers many classes and programs throughout the months, usually free. 40 Lincoln Center Plaza. Closed Sunday. Check website for programs: www.nypl.org

Bloomingdale Library. Our library offers many classes and activities for children and adults alike. 150 West 100th St. (Betwn Amsterdam & Columbus). Closed Sunday. Check website for classes: www.nypl.org

Great Music in a Great Space. In celebration of the restored Great Organ, the Cathedral presents a concert series most every Sunday. Cathedral of St. John the Divine 1047 Amsterdam Ave. 5PM FREE Also offered every Monday at 1PM www.stjohndivine.org

Cathedral of St. John the Divine Tours. Explore the many highlights of the Cathedral's history, architecture, and artwork from the Great Bronze Doors to the seven Chapels of the Tongues. The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine 1047 Amsterdam Ave. 11AM and Noon, 203PM Mondays; 11AM-Noon, 1-2PM Tuesdays, 1-2PM select Sundays \$6.00 (\$5.00 seniors) www.stjohndivine.org

The Jewish Museum. The museum offers many talks and family activities throughout the summer. Please visit their website for an interesting array of activities from art talks to art classes. www.thejewishmuseum.org

BAiP Social Activities – Bloomingdale Aging in Place (BAiP) sponsors 400 activities a year. For a complete list of activities and to learn more about this wonderful organization, please visit <http://bloominplace.org>

Please check our website for up-to-the-minute events at

<http://bloomingdale.org/events-activities/calendar/>



Recently, when a woman from the neighborhood fell on the South side of 104th Street, Osbourne E. Thomas, our new block patrol guard, assisted her. He stayed with her and was also helpful when paramedics arrived.



The block association board meets once a month.

We enjoy having residents attend the meetings.

Please let us know if you would like to attend one and we will send you an invitation.

104thstreetba@gmail.com

BLOOMINGDALE AGING IN PLACE (BaiP) ----- Bloominplace.org

BAiP is an intergenerational volunteer network of neighbors working to help older residents to continue living at home safely and comfortably. BAiP sponsors social & cultural activities, provides educational tools, and a helping hand for those in need through its **Neighbor-to-Neighbor (N2N)** program. The latter takes the form of providing help going places, running errands, light shopping, accompaniment at home or outdoors, and information. If you want to contact N2N for this kind of assistance, or to talk about volunteering, e-mail:

N2N@bloominplace.org, or call: 212.842.8831 to leave a message with your contact information. Either way, a BAiP member will respond promptly.

Give yourself a gift of good health.

Tammy Wise offers a class in Body Logos each Sunday at the Youth Hostel, 103rd & Amsterdam. The Sunday class is a \$15 single class rate and \$64 for a series of 5 (\$13 per class). The details at: <http://www.bodylogos.com/international-hostelling/>

Math and Science Tutoring

Columbia postdoc with over 10 years experience tutoring available to teach math, chemistry, and physics. Standardized tests as well: SAT, AP, ACT, Regents. Call Robert at 646.481.3266 or email at bob314@gmail.com.

Computer Consultant/PC Doctor.

Computers repaired, maintained, viruses removed, junk mail controlled. Advice to repair or buy. I do Windows! Contact Greg Williams, block resident at 212.749.2398, 917.771.2929 or prosolutions@stny.rr.com.

QuickBooks Consultant/Professional Organizer.

Accounting, business and personal finances, home and file organization. Contact Ellen Curtis at 212.749.2398, 607.829.5631 or EC4QBooks@aol.com.

Pet sitting. Experienced, responsible, caring pet sitter. I take care of your pets like they are my own! Dogs, cats, small animals, birds, reptiles, fish. Very reasonable rates. Call Tova at 212-662-5143 or email tgetoff@gmail.com.

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Beginner to advanced, child to adult, by congenial, multi-degreed professional. Call Irina at 212.749.1193.

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Former Bronx HS of Science teacher SAT, SHSAT, GRE, LSAT logic games Henry 212-666-0396

Personal Assistant Will organize papers, do bill payments, manage correspondence, day to day scheduling, research, travel arrangements, personal errands, escort to appointments. Excellent references from people in the neighborhood and elsewhere. Very reasonable rates. Contact: Valerie Boss at (347) 664-4499 or Yamandaboss@aol.com.

Writer/Editor

Professional writer & Faulkner finalist available for critiques, editing & as a writing tutor. Contact Pat at: 212-615-6927

Your Neighborhood Service Publicized FREE!

Publicize your neighborhood service (babysitting, dog walking, apartment cleaning, etc.) free in the newsletter and on our web site for one year, renewable. To submit an ad mail/deliver this information to Jon Smith, 320 RSD or send to 104thstreetba@gmail.com

For our records: Your name and mailing address

For publication: your name, contact method (phone or email address), description of your service

The block association board meets once a month.

We enjoy having residents attend the meetings.

Please let us know if you would like to attend one and we will send you an invitation.

104thstreetba@gmail.com

Call for Safe Escort Home With Block Guard

If you're ever coming home at night and you'd like to have an escort, please don't hesitate to call Osbourne, our security guard. He has a special phone for these times and he will come meet you either on West End Avenue or Riverside Drive and walk with you to your home.

Security Guard Phone Number:

347-723-1517

2015 3rd Quarter Dues :

Please allocate my contribution to
 ___ Security ___ Beautification ___ Social ___ Newsletter ___ Board Decision (Suggested amount: \$35 per quarter or \$140 per year)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

(For internal use only. The Block Association will not sell, exchange, or lend your e-mail address to any outside parties)

Suggestions for the block: _____

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

Mail to our treasurer:

Barbara Boynton: 905 WEA, #71, NY, NY 10025

or drop off at 308 W 104: Grace, Apt. 1A,

895 WEA: Koval, 6B, 320 RSD: Waskow, Apt. 8G

315 RSD: Howitt, Apt. 8C, 309 W 104: Mann, Apt. 3A