

W75BA NEWS

WEST 75TH STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION ■ CENTRAL PARK WEST TO RIVERSIDE DRIVE

Running Out the Rodents

Special Guests:

Robert Corrigan, NYC's Consultant on Rodents

Penny Ryan, Community Board 7

WHEN: Thursday, May 24, 7:00 P.M. sharp till 9:00

WHERE: West End Collegiate Church, 245 West 77th Street off West End



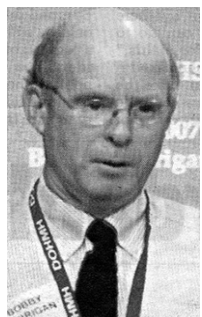
all have a share in creating an attractive, uniform, elegant cityscape on W75. If 45 people contribute \$100 each, we'll achieve Showplace 75. If ten landlords contribute \$450, we're home free. If 15 buildings raise \$300 each, we'll have it made. We have yet to approach Citarella and Fairway, and it's time we did. PS: Getting the quote cost W75BA \$100, the price of a parking ticket on the D.S. van. Sorry. We had toyed with the idea of a fundraiser concert, but Collegiate Church does not permit it.

Progress

The concrete around the tree at #236 has been expertly repaired and the bed has been planted by Paul Colacicco, the next door super, after the non-resident owner was prompted by W75BA. The two treebeds at #241 and #243 have been cleaned up, planted, and adopted by the residents, and will be watered from a hose outlet at #245. Finally, the elegant renovation of #234 is nearing completion. Please, everyone, plant

Continued on page 2

ROBERT "BOBBY" CORRIGAN, whose expertise in rodent control was reported in *AMNew York* in April, is a world-renowned expert on rats and a consultant to New York City on pest control. We will get a first-class education in the habits of varmints, how we can reduce their population, and problems of introducing rodenticides into the atmosphere. We



Robert "Bobby" Corrigan

also expect Penny Ryan from Community Board 7 and an expert from the Department of Health.

Who on W75 does not know that garbage, standing water, and trash attract varmints? But can we translate this into action? We'll find out.

A group in the 100 block, between Amsterdam and Columbus, has been incensed because some landlords were intimidated by the city and paved over the soil in their planters where rats had burrowed. They are formulating an approach to the landlords requesting better trash management and a moratorium on

paving. Worse, the first plants set out in a remaining bed were immediately stolen.

In the 300 block we will be working with the Riverside Park manager to reduce the rat population and ensure regular trash pickup in the Park and on the Drive.

We have also made an attempt to include folks on the 300 block on West 74th Street, who seem to be careless about their trash and trash cans. A number of rat bait stations have been installed all up and down W75, and we want to know more about the effect of poisons on humans and pets as well as on rodents.

Tree Guards, Riverside Drive to Broadway

A Bronx company, D.S. Ironworks, has quoted us \$300 per tree for 12" heavy-duty hoop guards, custom-measured and placed inside the raised stones, based on 15 trees between Riverside and Broadway. This is less than half the quote we received last year, and we think it's reasonable. So our goal is to raise \$4,500 this summer, asking owners and renters alike to contribute. After all, the sidewalks and trees belong to all of us, regardless of the property lines. We all walk by all the trees all the time, and we



Progress

Continued from page 1

around the trees. Try the 77th Street Flea Market for small, inexpensive plants. Ben Franklin Hardware has dirt and tools and will deliver.

Graffiti in the Spring

Some new designs have appeared on the mailboxes and traffic signal boxes, prompting a campaign by W75BA



to paint, paint, paint. It's messy but fun, and the results of our labors are immediately and satisfyingly obvious. May 12 was the start date of this project,

which will continue on W75 and adjacent corners many weekends.

Manhattan Day School

The MDS has announced its intention to renovate two floors and create a play area on the roof. Residents are bracing for a dusty, noisy summer, but we will be conferencing with the school and hoping to limit both the construction and the outdoor playing to reasonable daylight hours.

Like No Other Market

The number of plastic bags handed out with every order from Fairway is excessive.

Can we have a volunteer to approach the store and remind them that all that plastic is not PC and contributes to the overload of trash in this neighborhood? West End Market and Citarrella are far less wasteful of their bags. At the same time, all of us can bend over and pick up a handful of trash as we walk around. Plastic bags, soda bottles, and beer cans can all go in the corner baskets. It's good for the environment and good for the waistline.

Landmark West! and State Senator Tom Duane

It was March 8 that Kate Wood reminded us how hard Landmark West has labored to obtain landmark status on hundreds of Upper West Side buildings, most recently in our neighborhood the New York Cab Company stable at 75th and Amsterdam. The stable at 77th was denied this recognition, and is now a pile of rubble. A block-through high-rise is expected to fill the spot, with entrances on Amsterdam and 76th Street. The battle to save our skyline from the construction of a tower over the N-Y Historical Society is still ongoing. Rena Sichel Rosen of LW introduced us to their thoughtful program designed to give school children an appreciation of the architecture and history of their incredible city. They and their



According to www.curbed.com, a real estate gossip site that publishes "rumors, conjecture and opinions, as well as accurately reported factual information," earlier renovation plans for the former Colonial Club site at 72nd and Broadway may have been scrapped. As of May 3, a tipster reported, "... the wrecking crews have been idle for the past week. Rumor has it there may have been damage caused to the adjacent buildings."

teachers can learn how to "read a building" from its style.

Senator Duane, fresh from another meeting, spoke of his choice for New York State Comptroller (not the appointee), the new location of OTB on 72nd, the imbalance of taxes and returns between NYC and upstate, Spitzer's plans for the state economy, the horrible campaign contribution system in the state (the worst in the nation), runaway Medicaid costs, affordable housing, and a number of bills then pending in Albany. Our jovial senator seemed at home in our group, and asked to be invited back any time. His assistant, David Chang, offered the senator's help in any of our future endeavors

Verdi Square Statue



The four figures that surround the composer are Falstaff, Otello, Aida and *La Forza del Destino's* Leonora. We learned that Harry Belafonte has bought into the Apple Bank Building—perhaps this little group is right under his windows.

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Editors: Joan Franklin, Mary Ratcliffe
Writer Joan Franklin
Design & Layout: Mary Ratcliffe

WEST 75TH STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION CENTRAL PARK WEST TO RIVERSIDE DRIVE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____
Date _____

DUES: \$15/YEAR

Mail application with check to
W75BA, 311 West 75th St, New York, NY 10023
For more information: (212) 799-4800