

**94TH STREET SCENE**

Red-Tailed Hawk hanging outside the third story of 336 on 94th Street, Nov, 15, 2012.



## Fireplace Safety

Every year there are 14,000 fireplace fires that become out of control and end up catching houses and apartment buildings on fire. Here are some relatively easy ways to ensure your safety.

- Make sure your flue is cleaned annually or biannually based on use. Creosote buildup in chimneys is the leading cause of apartment and house fires from fireplaces.
- Make sure the flue is open before you light a fire. Otherwise, smoke will fill your house and create a dangerous situation.
- Always use the metal mesh screen when

you light a fire. Sparks can fly out and ignite you or your furniture otherwise.

- Keep at least 2 fire extinguishers in your apartment. Make sure they are fully-charged and place them in the kitchen and near an exit, in an easy-to-grab spot.
- Do Not use your fireplace for cooking
- Make sure your fire is completely out before going to bed.
- Do not remove hot ashes from your fireplace and place them in the garbage or use a vacuum cleaner to clean your fireplace.

## Juan De La Cruz *(Continued)*

get to Disneyland with his daughter this year where, as he says, he will “be able to play like a big kid!” Juan is a Yankees fan; when it comes to the NFL, though, he enjoys ribbing many of the 336 CPW staffers because he favors the Dallas Cowboys. One of seven children, Juan has a very large extended family, most of whom live in the Columbus, Ohio, area, which is where Juan and his family go for holidays and family vacations.

**PRESIDENT'S POTPOURRI**

In September I closed my letter to the building with this expression of optimism: “We are looking forward to a beautiful and colorful New York City autumn at 336 CPW.” Well, so much for my future as a weather forecaster. More to the point, however, let me express profound thanks in two directions following Hurricane Sandy. First, thanks wherever appropriate that the force and damage experienced here at 336 were as modest as they were. Of course, I say that with sympathetic recognition that so many others in Queens, Staten Island, on Long Island and across New Jersey were not nearly so fortunate. Second, I want to offer our deepest thanks and appreciation to Sergio, Orlando, Hugo, Flavio, Emilio, Fabian, Edwin Nunez and all the other dedicated members of the building staff who did so much to insure the safety, protection and comfort of all 336 residents. We observed those efforts and we are grateful.

Several 336 residents attended the memorial service for our neighbor Pat Meilman, wife of Roy and mother of Derek and Jeremy. Pat was also a loving, doting grandmother to Derek and Jeremy's four children. Last month Pat lost a two-year battle with cancer in which while courageously fighting to the end she simultaneously insisted on living her life as close to normally as possible. Pat was eulogized with enormous love, beautiful portraiture and warm appreciation by her family, her friends and her professional colleagues. What emerged was a picture of a cultured, caring, curious and courageous young girl, young woman, spouse, mother, grandmother, teacher and academic colleague. She will, of course, be missed by her family and friends, but we here at 336 will also miss her greatly. Condolences from all of us to Roy and family.

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**STAFF PROFILE**

## Juan De La Cruz

Juan De La Cruz started working at 336 CPW in early 2009, coming up to New York City from Charlotte, North Carolina, where for many years he ran a house framing business with customers in North Carolina and Virginia. Juan still keeps a house in Charlotte, with an eye towards retiring there in the future. In the meantime, he is well-established in NYC where he is raising his 8-year-old daughter and keeping track of his older son and daughter, both of whom are in college. In his spare time Juan loves cooking, competing in paintball games, remote control cars (the adult kind!), and is an avid gamer. He hopes to

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In my last letter I reported at some length about our plans to convert the building from #6 oil heat to natural gas. We have just now signed a contract with Controlled Combustion - the company on whom we have relied over the years for support with our heating system - to do the work necessary to accomplish the conversion. We are following the schedule mandated by Con Edison, which called for commencement of the project by November 1. We selected Controlled Combustion at the conclusion of a sealed bid process in which we received five separate bids. We were assisted with engineering advice and project management support from EN-Power Group of White Plains. We plan to conclude the project early enough to allow us to implement the actual change-over from oil to gas after this heating season and before the next one.

This will entail substantial capital investment, but the projected cost savings should achieve a full payback within four years. We also believe we can finance this project out of current cash reserves without the need for a special assessment.

In the course of the next month, the Board will be working on the budget for calendar 2013. We are reasonably comfortable with the financial performance achieved so far in 2012 and with our cash position at the end of 10 months of operations. This will have important influence on our deliberations concerning what will be needed in the way of projected maintenance revenues for 2013.

This week is Thanksgiving - about as early in the month as it can be. I hope everyone is planning a family get-together somewhere and that the holiday holds the promise of a quiet repose for a long weekend and some quality family time. I hope also we will find some time to share thanks for the many blessings we have enjoyed this past year and before.

Please mark your calendars for the 336 CPW holiday party which is scheduled for Thursday, December 20, at 6 PM. You might also give some thought to what you might be able to bring to the party - besides your wit, wisdom and good looks.

On that happy note, let me wish you best regards.

Mike Schell

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**336 CPW Tenants Respond to Sandy**

by Elizabeth MacDonald, 14D

Like many in our building, when Hurricane Sandy struck, we were shocked by the severity of the damage. The images were startling, so many people were killed, families destroyed, parts of N.J. were starting to look like Venice, homes collapsed, flooded or burnt to the ground, debris everywhere. And we heard so many in our elevators voicing the same reaction.

Having covered Hurricane Katrina on the ground in New Orleans and worked on the recovery, and knowing Lindsay had also lived through tornadoes in Ohio, we felt the best we could do first is to try to get whatever we could to people there. This is not about us. This is about the people of 336. What we did was easy.

The first weekend we collected a stunning 48 bags. Stunning, because the generosity of the building was overwhelming, and it felt like it came out of the blue. Donations of coats, blankets, food, baby clothes, diapers, men and women's clothes, shoes, sneakers, water went to Staten Island, Breezy Point and the Rockaways.



And then 336 came through yet again with even more. The next weekend, about 51 bags. This time donations went to the towns in the midsection of N.J. that are underwater.

Uniformly the questions came at the drop-offs, "who donated all of this?," "where did all of this come from" and each time the response was "336 Central Park West."

And now here's where it gets really heartwarming. Here's what we heard: "We had no idea people were so good and generous," "tell everyone in your building we love them," and "please thank your building, we felt so alone and didn't think anyone cared about us," "your building shows people really do care, and that's what makes this easier."

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**336 CPW Holiday Party**  
**Thursday, December 20, at 6 PM**