

Spring Electronic Waste Recycling Day

Looking to safely get rid of your old and unused electronics?

The Ecology Center will be accepting electronic waste ("e-waste") from residents and small businesses (under 50 employees)

Sunday, April 21, 2013 from 10am-4pm

Rain or Shine

Amsterdam Avenue between West 74 Street and West 75 Street, NY NY Sponsored by Council Member Gale A. Brewer, the Lower East Side Ecology Center and Upper West Side Recycling.

The Ecology Center will accept the following working and non-working equipment:

- Computers (laptops & desktops, servers, mainframes)
- Monitors
- Printers, scanners, fax-machines, copiers
- Network devices (routers, hubs, modems, etc.)
- Peripherals (keyboards, mice, cables, etc.)
- Components (hard drives, CD-ROMs, circuit boards, power supplies, etc.)
- TVs, VCRs, & DVD Players
- Audio-visual equipment
- Cell phones, pagers, PDAs
- Telecommunication (phones, answering machines, etc.)

For more information please contact
Lower East Side Ecology Center
 (212-477-4022 or www.lesecologycenter.org)
 or CM Gale Brewer (212-873-0282 or gale.brewer@council.nyc.gov)



PRESIDENT'S POTPOURRI

Dear 336 CPW Friends and Neighbors,

The lead story in the Sunday Times Real Estate section on Easter Sunday was entitled "Bark if You're Legal." If you didn't read it I commend it to all of you, and to assist that recommendation, here's the link: www.nytimes.com/2013/03/31/realestate/what-pet-owners-must-do-to-get-new-york-apartments.html

I found it enlightening, even after more than 20 years as a dog-owner myself, and more than six on the board of this "pet-friendly" co-op at 336 CPW. Two pieces of the article were cogent reminders of how lucky we are to live in a building that welcomes our dogs and how much of a responsibility we have to our neighbors. That obligation to our neighbors is especially important for those who are not necessarily so enamored of our pets as we are:

Buildings have rules about pets for many reasons. The very young and the very old may be frightened of animals, especially those that look menacing. Owners worry about property damage. Barking and howling can make life miserable for everybody. A jumping dog, no matter how friendly, can be unnerving and dangerous, and few people appreciate a nip in the ankle. . . .

New York is home to half a million dogs (according to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene) and nearly as many cats, and to millions of people with assorted fears, phobias and allergies living just inches from their neighbors. Small wonder that pets in apartments have become an ever more contentious issue. It's the rare pet owner who doesn't have a sad and even heartbreaking story about the struggles of finding a place to live.

The couple's offer of \$2.4 million was accepted. However, when the board learned about their 18-pound Lhasa apso, Dakini, an aging dog to which Ms. [Buyer] was deeply attached, the deal seemed doomed.

"The board was staunch in its no-pet policy," said [the] broker who represented the seller and who hammered out the deal with [the] broker who represented the buyers. "But the couple approached the board president, and it was agreed that they'd pay \$50,000 as a nonrefundable fee to the building and \$25,000 in escrow for any damage the dog might cause."

The point of the second quote is not that the board of that building sold rule compliance for a price -- although that seems to be what they did. I would hope our board would not be willing to sell a waiver of a rule for any price. At the same time, the story demonstrates what a gift our neighbors confer on us as dog owners through their willingness to live in a building that welcomes our pets. Of course, I would also argue this augments the value of all our apartments, but I do not have market data to support the argument. At the same time, the existence of half a million dogs in New York City would seem to suggest there is considerable demand for pet-friendly buildings and apartments.

This article affords me the occasion (perhaps I should say excuse) and the opportunity to say a couple of other things on the subject of our building's pet-friendliness. And please do understand I say these things from the staunch and entrenched point of view of a life-long dog lover.

Speaking primarily to the dog-owners and dog lovers in the building, my message is relatively simple. However much we love our dogs, however cute and lovable we think they are, however well-behaved and unthreatening we see their being and however much reinforcement of those views we get from others, we must endeavor to see ourselves, our pets and our pet-related activities through the eyes of our pet-less friends and neighbors. They may have good reason to be apprehensive or allergic to or disturbed by or just plain disinterested in our pets. So it is our responsibility to afford our neighbors the respect and consideration necessary to avoid irritation, vexation, apprehension or other intrusions into their space by our pets. In simplest terms, let's endeavor to keep our pets out of our neighbors' way.

Having said that to the pet-owners of 336, let me also speak briefly to our pet-less neighbors. Generally, it is my observation that your pet-owning neighbors use their best efforts to observe the rules of the co-op as well as the precepts articulated in my immediately preceding paragraph. It is also my observation that, with modest exceptions, when one of our pets does intrude into your space in one way or another, it is inadvertent, unintended and the subject of regret on the part of the pet-owner. For that reason, in those circumstances I would hope you could be understanding and somewhat forgiving, provided it is not a recurring situation that obviously results from the owner's neglect and inattention. In particular, I would hope those few occasions where a minor difficulty arises could be resolved quickly with a candid, but always polite, conversation between two neighbors who share ownership in the building.

I would like to emphasize that it is obviously the board's ultimate job to seek to insure the safety and the quiet enjoyment of the residents in the building. This topic is no exception. However, at the same time I would simply note the relative efficiency, effectiveness and proximity to the issue that characterizes a discussion between two residents in contrast to having one or the other resident's seeking to engage the board in the discussion. If nothing else, the physical absence of the board from the circumstances giving rise to the need for the discussion is a significant handicap from which the parties themselves do not suffer. I hope everyone will keep this thought in mind.

On a different and concluding note, let me remind you all our annual meeting of shareholders will be held on Monday, April 29, 2013, at 7:00 P.M. EDT, at the Alexander Robertson School on 95th Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue. Please try to attend. In any event, please deposit your proxy in one of the white Ballot Boxes in the lobby of the building. We would very much like to beat our quorum percentage achieved last year. It was 87.5%, so we need virtually everyone to do that this year.

Thanks to all and very best regards.

Mike Schell

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STAFF PROFILE

Fabian Gonzalez



Fabian Gonzalez has been on the staff of 336 CPW for a year and he's fast made himself part of the 336 family. Originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Fabian came to New York City in 2001, just two months before the 9-11 attacks. He felt very much a part of New York and has been living here with his wife, Laura, ever since. They have two daughters, Stephanie, 13, and Alexa, 8, of whom they're very proud. Fabian's parents and sister still live in Argentina, while others of his family have joined him in the U.S.

Fabian worked as a carpenter in Argentina and continued this work in New York prior to joining the 336 staff as a porter, where he's called upon to use those carpentry skills periodically. When he's not working, he enjoys watching soccer (Boca Junior is his team, of course!) and car racing-- he's quick to point out it's not NASCAR that he watches, but the Turismo Carretera, the wildly popular Argentinian touring car racing series, and the oldest car racing series still active in the world.

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

Rally for Food City

On Sunday, April 14, 2013 Council Member Gale A. Brewer joined members of Local 338 Retail Wholesale Department Store Union and United Food and Commercial Workers (RWDSU-UFCW) along with hundreds of neighbors to support Food City, 705 Columbus Avenue, Manhattan, a grocery store with over 40 years of doing business on the upper West Side. Food City has not been given a lease by the owner of the building since 2004 and may be forced to close as a result.

Food City is a family owned business of three generations, founded in 1953 by Robert Katz and partners. The first Food City market opened on Broadway and branched out, at one point including fourteen stores located throughout the city. The Food City on 70 West 95 Street/705 Columbus Avenue, New York, NY 10025 opened in 1969 and has since been an important place for the upper West Side community, offering quality products and reasonable prices to the local neighborhood. Food City has been a union shop since 1953, being part of Local 338 for groceries and Local 342 for meat products. It is currently home to about 45 loyal union employees, and an integral part of this neighborhood.

To find out what you can do to preserve this open area contact **Council member Gale Brewer's office** (212 - 873-0282) or **Borough President Scott Stringer** (212-669 - 8300).

