

Thanksgiving In The 'Hood

Where to watch the “blowing up of the balloons” as well as the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade:

Less than a day before an average of 3.5 million people gather to watch the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade in the city, workers undertake the arduous task of bringing 17 massive balloons to life. New balloons this year include characters from Angry Birds and “Ice Age” among others. If you want to get in on the action, here’s what you need to know:

Public Entrance Location: 79th Street and Columbus Ave, UWS

Time: Wednesday, Nov 25th, 3p-10p



Balloons Featured:

On 77th St you’ll find Scrat and his Acorn from “Ice Age”, Adventure Time with Finn and Jake, Hello Kitty, “Diary of a Wimpy Kid”, Ronald McDonald, Red Mighty Morphin Power Ranger, Spongebob Squarepants, Aflac Duck Balloonicle, Kool-Aid Man Balloonicle, “Skylanders” Eruptor.

On 81st St look for Red from Angry Birds, Thomas the Tank Engine, Paddington Bear, Toothless from “How to Train Your Dragon”, Sinclair Oil’s DINO, Pikachu, Pillsbury Doughboy, Elf on the Shelf, Snoopy and Woodstock

Tips:

The earlier you arrive, the better. A Macy’s spokesperson recommends arriving at around 430p, as that’s when the balloons start to take shape.

Keep a close eye on your belongings. As with any large nighttime gathering, people should “avoid carrying around oversize backpacks and always pay attention to your surroundings”, the spokesperson said.

The Route

The parade kicks off at 77th Street and Central Park West. Upper West Siders get a great front row seat! The parade makes its way down and turns at Columbus Circle onto Central Park South. The best locations for viewing are on Central Park West from 70th Street to Columbus Circle on the west side of the street, and 70th to 65th on the east side of the street, or at Columbus Circle, on the west side of street. The parade then veers south onto 6th Avenue. Note: the parade route is closed to the public for broadcasting purposes between 34th Street and 38th Street on 6th Avenue, as well as 34th Street between Broadway and 7th Avenue. The parade makes its final turn and stops in front of Macy’s Herald Square!

Parade Performances

The entertainment lineup this year is pretty epic. Mariah Carey, Jordin Sparks and Daughtry will all be on hand as well as other big names including Pat Benatar, Prince Royce, Shawn Mendes, Andy Grammer, Jake Owen and Trey Songz. Theatrical performances from Broadway will include “Finding Neverland,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” “The King & I,” and more! The Radio City Music Hall Rockettes will be in attendance as well as twelve marching bands that will walk the parade route from 77th Street to 34th. Here’s a piece of advice...the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade official viewing area on 34th Street is the most crowded part of the parade. So skip the official viewing area and line up on Central Park West for the best views in town!



PRESIDENT’S POTPOURRI

Dear 336 CPW Friends and Neighbors,

Thanksgiving and the December holidays – Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years, etc. – are on the horizon and coming into focus. The building will host the annual holiday party on Wednesday, December 9 at 6:00PM. I welcome all of you and hope we will see a large turnout. Especially from all your younger children and grandchildren. It does seem to be a big hit with them every year, and I am confident this year will be no exception.

In the spirit of those holidays, I must say there is much for which to be thankful here in our 336 CPW community. Over the past couple of years we have welcomed a number of younger couples and families into our community who will contribute to its strength, continuity and vibrancy. Moreover, just recently the Board had occasion to meet with a young couple who may one day be our neighbors. It caused me to reflect. One of these young folks grew up in this building and the other – an Upper West Sider – is the niece of a long-time resident of our building. It never ceases to amaze me how many wonderful neighborhood connections seem to keep popping up as younger generations mature and begin finding their way in the world as adults.

By now you should have received the Board’s memo concerning the 2016 budget and maintenance charges. There isn’t much for me to add here but perhaps a couple of sidebar comments may be appropriate. Comment number one is this subject certainly belongs on the list of items for which we should be thankful this season. We have been extraordinarily fortunate with the building operations, finances and staff this year and I want first and foremost to say thank you to all who play a role in those. That includes all 10 members of the Board, John Devall and his colleagues at Orsid, Sergio, Orlando and the staff at 336 and – last but not least – all residents and shareholders who contribute in small and inconspicuous – but nevertheless important – ways to our building culture.

I also want to observe it is barely six weeks ago that I wrote to you saying we were having a strong year and that we were mostly on target with the 2015 budget. While there are numerous unpredictable factors affecting our budget, it now appears we will achieve an extraordinary year in 2015 – a year that is probably unprecedented, certainly in recent annals. As the Board already reported, this creates two distinct benefits to the shareholders: (1) upon consultation with Orsid, this has allowed a recharacterization of the December maintenance payment as capital which has the benefit of adding to shareholders’ tax basis going forward and (2) it has also allowed us to take the truly remarkable action of decreasing the 2016 shareholder maintenance by 2%. Finally, although all the numbers are subject to finishing the year, closing the books and completing the annual audit, it appears highly likely we will finish the year with Board designated cash reserves – sitting in the proverbial bank – which exceed \$1 million.

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I do have a couple of concerns. The first - which I state only partially in jest - is that folks at 336 CPW become used to results such as these and begin to expect them every year. Not likely. The second is that we need to understand our financial condition is not risk free. Rather it is one in which we are adequately but not invincibly positioned to respond to most if not all financial contingencies and uncertainties which we know are on the horizon and which we know over some cyclical period - say two Local Law 11 reports or 10 years or through one full economic cycle including both a recession and a recovery - could come to pass.

As noted in my last letter, we spend significant time forecasting these uncertainties and we continue to work on planning for these contingencies. We have made considerable conceptual progress inside the Board membership, although we do not as yet have any program or programs that have been vetted by the full Board. We hope to have done so by sometime relatively early in the new year. I trust you will be hearing more about that in the coming months and year.

In case you missed the announcement, Richard Soghoian announced he will retire as Head of School at Columbia Grammar & Prep School at the close of the 2016-2017 school year (June 2017). Dr. Soghoian has been at the helm of that school since 1981, making him a very long-time institutional neighbor of 336 CPW. Of course, we have had our challenges from time to time with the school and sometimes even with Dr. Soghoian. However, on balance, in my experience he has been a benevolent neighbor and partner to us. He also has compiled an admirable record of growth and development for a school that was virtually moribund when he first arrived at CGPS 35 years ago. I think his accomplishments are worthy of recognition and appreciation - especially from the CGPS community. He certainly has mine.

Our new website, www.336cpw.org, is up and running - thanks very much to Martin Propper. I encourage you to visit the website as there is a wealth of historical and current information about our building and the community.

Happy Thanksgiving. Happy Hanukkah. Merry Christmas. And best wishes to all for a splendid and healthy New Year.

Mike Schell

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Come celebrate with friends and neighbors
336 CPW Holiday Party
December 9, 2015 at 6pm
The Lobby

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Block by Block: The West 90's.

When you leave the building and stroll through the leafy surrounding streets, do you get a sense you're inhabiting "the New York of Woody Allen, Nora Ephron and Jerry Seinfeld"? Such are the West 90s, according to a recent segment of "Block by Block," the New York Times' ongoing series of video vignettes about the city's neighborhoods.

The five-minute video, shot on a day when the neighborhood looked its finest, features observations by 6th district City Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal, local tenant activist Sue Susman, real-estate agent Scott Stewart and several other denizens of the district.

Ms. Rosenthal gives a shout-out to local restaurants Gabriela's, Carmine's and Gennaro, and Mr. Stewart waxes lyrical about the neighborhood's "absolutely stunning" Art Deco and Beaux Arts architecture (quick pronunciation note, Scott: that's 'boze are'....). He points out that the West 90s have managed to maintain a blend of mom-and-pop shops and national chains, many of them concentrated in the complex on Columbus Avenue north of 97th Street.

Historian James Panero says our neighborhood was built a generation after the Upper East Side during the flourishing of the City Beautiful movement, setting the tone for Riverside Park, the elegant brownstones of the cross streets, and the ambitious buildings of the boulevards. "It's not everybody's ideal of New York," he says. "But it's a New Yorker's ideal of New York."

Watch the video at <http://nyti.ms/1LIDK2u>.

A Neighbor Celebrated



This year, longtime 336 shareholder Twyla Tharp is celebrating her 50th anniversary as a choreographer, and this week her double bill of new pieces, "Preludes and Fugues" and "Yowzie," opened at Lincoln Center after a two-month tour around the country.

There is no question that the New York premieres offer an important look at a legendary career. "If the thought processes within Twyla Tharp's dances could be written down in book form," wrote New York Times reviewer Alistair Macaulay, "it would be the world's most densely packed, intelligent, artful guide to high-entertainment dance-making."

"The mind within the movement is exceptionally fast, accomplished, diverse, unpredictable," he continued. "Solos, duets and trios happen at different speeds simultaneously only to melt into a unison ensemble. Symmetry, asymme-

try, peripheral space: Ms. Tharp draws on a lexicon of contrasting resources; at times she aims movement to address the audience, while at others she focuses it as if the fourth wall were down. Ballet, modern, ballroom, slapstick: A plethora of styles fluently coexist. You sense not just the experience of all her career but lessons learned, too, from watching choreographers who have gone before."

For the Times' full review, go to <http://nyti.ms/1Qxm5BU>. For Ms. Tharp's own thoughts about her career and its current form, check out her blog at the NYTimes or go to <http://nyti.ms/1JkEBEX>.

