# 336cpw

## news

### Water Conservation in NYC

Water is a precious resource. It's important to use water wisely, particularly during extended dry weather. By following these simple suggestions, you'll help conserve the supply we all depend on.

#### IN THE BATHROOM

- Install a water-saving shower head. Older heads use 5-10 gallons per minute (gpm). All new fixtures us approximately 2.5 gpm and offer equal water coverage and force.
- Take shorter showers
- Repair all leaks and drips
- Consider installing a high efficiency toilet (HET) that only uses 1.28 gallons/flush.

#### IN THE KITCHEN

- Rinse dishes, vegetables and fruits in a filled basin, rather than under running water.
- Water your plants with left-over rinse water. (Plants also love fish tank water!)
- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher. Use the "light wash" setting when possible.
- Consider buying a high efficiency dishwasher that will save water and energy.
- Keep a jug of chilled water in the refrigerator for drinking to avoid running the water until it gets cold.
- Repair all leaks and drips

#### IN THE LAUNDRY

- · Wash only full loads of clothing.
- · Hand wash single garments.
- Consider buying a high efficiency washing machine that will save water and energy. Some water districts and homeowners associations give rebates for this.

Additional water saving tips are available at: www.nyc.gov



#### PRESIDENT'S POTPOURRI

Dear 336 CPW Friends and Neighbors,

Frank Langella called me the other day. Yes, I am dropping Frank's name. Frank took the incidental opportunity to do a mini-book tour stop – retail. In his distinctively direct and economical style, he asked me to buy his new book – *Dropped Names*. I had already read a couple of reviews of the book – including the Times which I thought was puerile and salacious. I did buy the book and read it. Do yourself a favor. Get the book and read it. It's a fascinating walk down a very special American cultural memory lane. And Frank's personal voice – spare, to the point, insightful, simple, often appealingly self-effacing – ices the cake.

Hilarious, painful, poignant, titillating, exhilarating and pathetic all come to mind as I read Frank's stories. One is illustrative. Frank reflects on a conversation with a well-known, accomplished actor of mid-twentieth century: "The word 'I' passed [his] lips more often than perhaps any actor I have ever known, and it is a pronoun that comes quite easily to most of us." In a different meeting this actor recounts how he heroically saved his infant son – in a baby carriage – from a fire that rapidly consumed their home. Frank speculates the experience must have created a great father-son bond, to which the actor replies he never told his son about the experience. And to Frank's inquiry "Why" the actor replies "Why should I? It was my experience."

We have another author in the house - Elizabeth Bailey. She has recently published *The Patient's Checklist - 10 Simple Hospital Checklists To Keep You Safe, Sane and Organized.*No less an authority than Dr. Atul Gawande has extravagant praise for Elizabeth's effort to confront and subdue the health care behemoth: "Elizabeth Bailey's book could save your life. I've been pushing for people to understand how checklists work and can be made to empower them. Bailey has done precisely this for patients — that is, for all of us." To which the *NY Times* responded: "The book will be a godsend for concerned friends and relatives trying to rein in the chaos...bravo." Again, I say to all of you, buy this book. I did.

We have a lot of stories in our 336 building. Some of them are medical or health stories. Others are family stories, parents, kids, siblings and so on. Aging. Babies born. Jobs – lost and found. Getting into schools and graduating. And dog stories. We heard a few at the annual meeting the other night. Permit me a couple of brief comments. First, let's remember we all have stories that entail joys, challenges and struggles. Let's remember we're all neighbors. We can so easily make one another's lives just a bit better with an extra dose of accommodation, understanding, being considerate. In all directions. So let's try to be kind to one another. On the subjects discussed the other night, the Board is attending to them – assiduously. I am confident we are making good progress toward a fair and reasonable resolution – for everybody.

As you heard at the shareholder meeting, the past year has challenged us. It has also rewarded us largely with success where we could easily have encountered other results. Mainly, I am speaking about the condition of the building and the completion of the remedial work to fix what wasn't properly done in the Local Law 11 project of 2005-2007. I am speaking about the fact that we seemed to be finding new problems at every turn and that every problem seemed

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to require endless time, effort and money to fix. I am speaking about the fact that we seemed to be depleting our reserves to a level that engendered doubt whether they were adequate for the long-term. But the Spring of 2012 has brought us not only early blooms and greenery but also pretty much a completely favorable resolution of all these uncertainties. Last year's challenges seem to be behind us. And I think we have everything back on the rails - if they were ever off. The building is in excellent physical condition and repair - at least as good as any 83 year old building ought to be. Our balance sheet is healthy. Our cash position is sound. Our reserves remain at a comfortable level in spite of the more than half million dollars we have had to spend in capital improvements over the past three years. We have an emergency credit facility that would sustain us in even the direct of circumstances. And we have a human resource infrastructure - which means people - that is working well, harmoniously and efficiently. That includes the Board, the building staff led by Sergio and the managing agent and their staff. Indeed, it seems we are right now more concerned with noise and dogs and flowers and furniture repairs and school traffic than anything else - which I guess you could say is a high class problem.

Let me sound a particularly high note here - what I like to call our people riches. The staff led by Sergio Ochoa does excellent work, is reliable, looks out for all of us, and, I hope and believe, is generally happy with the working environment they find here at 336 CPW. We have been investing in and working on our relationship with Orsid and its representatives, and I believe we are making progress toward integrating them into the smoothly functioning teamwork we have with the staff. And, finally, there is the Board. They are all doing a superb job. Every one of them has in one way or another stepped up, answered the call of duty, and delivered well above and beyond what is required or asked. They are a terrific group and it is a pleasure to work with each and every one of them.

On a sad note, let me inform you that Orlando Arriaga's mother passed away recently. Orlando has been part of the 336 family for more than 5 years. Our hearts, prayers and thoughts are with you and your family, Orlando.

By the time you read this we will have had the Spring party for the building. A bit earlier than last year, but then Spring itself was early – maybe as much as 6 weeks early. I am confident we will have had a friendly, convivial and successful little get-together and that we will be properly launched for full enjoyment of the summer.

With very best regards and especially good wishes for a cool, calm and relaxing Memorial Day holiday and summer following. Keep cool and be well.

Mike Schell

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#### STAFF PROFILE

### Pedro Edwin Nunez

Known as Edwin by his family, friends and within the 336 community, Pedro Edwin Nunez grew up in the Dominican Republic. The oldest of three siblings,

Edwin started playing baseball at a very young age, eventually playing at a semi-pro level. His two sisters came to the United States, settling in Brooklyn and Long Island. Edwin came to the United States in 1999 and settled in Manhattan, where he worked retail selling beauty supplies before joining the staff of 336 in 2007 as, first, a substitute, and then as a full-time porter.



Edwin met his wife, Elizabeth, also from the Dominican Republic, in New York, and they've been married for seven years. When he's not working, Edwin is playing with (and chasing after) his young sons, two-year-old Eduardo and three-and-a-half-year-old Alejandro, who has just started attending Pre-K.

One of his sisters also has two young boys, so it's no wonder Edwin's parents make the trip over to the United States from the Dominican Republic several times a year to visit. This July promises to be busy and exciting for Edwin and his family, as they move into their first owned home, a co-op in the Bronx. Congratulations, Edwin!

In the summer months, Edwin plays shortstop on the softball team of which many on the 336 staff are a part. He follows baseball avidly and is a Boston Red Sox fan (he's sorry if this offends any New York fans reading this!). He loves good Dominican food and when asked to recommend any local restaurants, he confirms that El Malecon on Amsterdam at 97th street is excellent Dominican fare.

# Browse through 336 History

Select 336 newsletters from the past 2 decades are now accessible in their original formats on the building web site at

336cpw.org/info.htm

