

The Park West Tenant

Vol. 21, No. 6

The Newsletter of the Park West Village Tenants' Association

June 1996

GAS SHUTDOWN

Late on Sunday, June 9, residents of 788 Columbus Avenue were notified by memo from Park West management that on Monday the entire gas line system would be shut down and tested. There will be no gas for cooking during the shutdown, but hot water will be provided.

An update memo June 10 indicated that the plumbing contractor would need access to all apartments on Tuesday to cap each gas line so that ConEd could "do their first test."

As of June 16, the laundry room and five apartment lines had been restored. So far, no clear explanation of cause has been given. The PWVTA will consider the situation at its June 17 meeting. The 788 Building Reps will continue to keep tenants informed.



PWVTA MEMBER FROM 784 COLUMBUS AVE. SCORES SOME PUBLICITY! This AP photo was published in Newsday May 22, with this AP/Wide World Photos caption: "Florence Wagener, right, cheers on a speaker at a rally for Tenant Lobby Day at the Capital in Albany, NY, Tuesday, May 21. The sign in front of Wagener is referring to Republican Senator and majority leader Joseph Bruno. Thousands of people, mostly from the New York City area, attended the rally."

RGB FINAL VOTING MEETING JUNE 24

The Rent Guidelines Board has proposed unfair rent increases of 5 and 7 percent for 1- and 2-year leases, 14 and 16 percent for new leases on vacant apartments, and a "supplemental" hike of \$20 for apartments renting below \$400.

The final meeting when the vote is taken will be **Monday, June 24, from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at the Auditorium of One Police Plaza.**

The RGB will vote on final rent increases for rent stabilized apartments, lofts, hotels, and SROs. These could be higher, lower, or the same as the "proposed" increases. Besides turning out at the meeting, you can call Mayor Giuliani's chief of staff Randy Mastro at 788-3137, or fax: 788-2887, to express your opinion. Our future matters NOW!

PWVTA Joins Thousands in Albany Tenant Lobby Day

On May 21, 1996, a sea of bright pink caps with "I'm a TENANT and I VOTE" inundated Albany as PWVTA members in our chartered bus joined with thousands of others from across the state to meet with legislators and express their concerns about the threats to affordable housing in New York City and the state.

PWVTA members met with Assemblymember Ed Sullivan and State Senator David Paterson. Both promised to support Rent Regulations and to work to enhance the security of renters. Sullivan signed a statement supporting tenants' rights.

Assemblymember Scott Stringer held a meeting telling tenants how their legislators are influenced. He said that writing our legislators and telling them what bills we support, and coming to Albany in great numbers to show our concern, are helpful actions. He noted that the thousands of tenants marching throughout the corridors of the Legislative Office Building made an impression on all the legislators—and he commented that the hats we were wearing were very effective.

784 Columbus Avenue On June 13 the NY State DHCR issued notice of an MCI Rent Increase Grant for new windows, which were replaced in 1994. This will be taken up by the Executive Board on Monday, June 17.

392 Central Park West The listing of holdover Building Reps and Alternates here in April is no longer valid, since there has not been a building meeting of tenants since 1994. Please call the PWVTA Hotline for tenant concerns.

400 Central Park West The Building Meeting on May 20 elected Building Reps: Mark Davis, 3D 222-1742; Bess Mitchell, 18K 865-6170; and Gustina Scaglia, 5A 865-2953. Alternates: Judi Bloch, 9D 663-4420; Henry Genn, 8L 864-7557; Selma Lewis, 17E 663-4199; and Emily Margolis, 12Y 864-5996.

PWVTA MEETINGS
Executive Board: Monday, September 16, 7:30 PM Ryan Health Center (97th St., near Col. Ave.)
Communications Committee: Monday, September 30, 7:30 PM 372 Central Park West - 16X
Legal Committee: Monday, September 9, 8:00 PM Call 864-5996 for location

HANDICAPPED-ACCESS RAMPS FOR COLUMBUS AVENUE BUILDINGS

With respect to ramps, Local Law 58 requires that the landlord provide reasonable access to handicapped people who use the building. Randolph Wills, representing the city's Commission on Human Rights, said that although the meaning of reasonable may not be defined, it is clear that requiring a ramp for wheelchair-bound residents is reasonable.

Exceptions are allowed when installation of ramps would be too costly or physically impossible. However, this is not the case in Park West Village, where ramps have been installed at 784 Columbus Avenue and the Central Park West buildings.

Ernest Jackson depends upon a motorized wheelchair to get around Park West Village and gain access to his 788 Columbus Avenue home. He has sent letters to Public Advocate Mark Green and others about the plight of residents who require a ramp for ready access to their building.


It was learned that Park West management is in the process of starting to ramp this building. There is no word yet of a ramp for 792 Columbus Ave.

In Memoriam
Constance Williams Wilson
July 20, 1931 - April 30, 1996

The Executive Board of the PWVTA wishes to express its heartfelt sympathy at the untimely death of Constance Williams Wilson. Connie was an early founder of the PWVTA, served as Vice President of the Association, and had always been an active leader in 788 Columbus Avenue.

We appreciate her efforts and mourn the loss of someone who has contributed so much in our behalf.

Produced by PWVTA Communications Committee. Contributors: Clare Dockery, Pat Graham, Emily Margolis, Carol Stanczak, and Chuck Tice. The Executive Board approved the committee's name change from Publications to Communications on May 16. To help report, edit, compose, or distribute, call the PWVTA Hotline: 662-2610.

 **JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS - RENEW NOW!**

PLEASE RETURN THIS MEMBERSHIP COUPON TO YOUR BUILDING REPRESENTATIVE OR MAIL TO:

Park West Village Tenants' Association
P.O. Box 20339, Park West Finance Station, New York, NY 10025-0339

Name: Building: Apt.: Phone:

Check for 1996 membership dues enclosed, payable to PWVTA. \$35 Other: \$.....

Check includes additional contribution to Legal fund. Amount: \$.....

If you cannot make full \$35 payment of your annual dues, please pay what you can.
Your membership card will be delivered to you.