

The Park West Tenant

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The Newsletter of the Park West Village Tenants' Association info@pwvta.org June 2008

RENT-STABILIZED & MARKET-RATE TENANTS TO MEET TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 7:30 pm, at the Ryan Health Center, 110 West 97th Street.

The PWVTA will orient current and potential members on activities and needs. We will cover our history, including the Hardship Case, the Warranty of Habitability, the Rent Strike, and Major Capital Improvements (MCI charges).

We will discuss topics concerning our activities and needs, including rent overcharges, the Rent Guidelines Board, current Rent Stabilization laws, and subletting. Jennie Laurie of Met Council on Housing will speak on rent regulation, reform efforts, Vacancy Decontrol, and repeal of the Urstadt Law to give us Home Rule.

Your ideas are welcomed to strengthen the organization, create a stronger sense of community, and deal with issues we face together in our neighborhood. MORE INFO, call the PWVTA Hotline: 212-662-2610 or write info@pwvta.org.

Membership Elects Officers

At the Annual Membership and Election Meeting on May 19, new officers were elected: President, Chuck Tice; Vice President, Dorri Jacobs; Treasurer, Florence Wagener; and Membership Secretary, Miriamne Spector. The members voted to allow the appointment of a Secretary to the vacant office from among volunteers.

Committee chairs presented reports: Francine Brewer, Fund Raising and Social Activities; Dean Heitner, Legal; Albina De Meio, Quality of Life; Clare Dockery, Action; and Chuck Tice, Communications.

The PWVTA Executive Board usually meets on the third Monday of the month. Any member of the Association is welcome to attend the meeting. If you have something to contribute, call the PWVTA Hotline at 212-662-2610 in advance to be put on the agenda under new business, or write: info@pwvta.org.

The next meeting of the Executive Board is Monday, June 16, 7:30 pm.

Rent Guidelines Board Public Hearings and Vote

The Rent Guidelines Board is in the process of deciding what your rent increase will be. If you think rents are too high, come to the public hearings and testify. The schedule:

Public Meeting: June 3, 9:30 AM–12:00 PM, 22 Reade St., Manhattan

Public Hearing: June 11, 4:00–10:00 PM, 285 Jay St., Brooklyn

Public Hearing: June 16, 10:00 AM–6:00 PM, 7 East 7th St., Manhattan

Final Vote: June 19, 5:30–9:30 PM, 7 East 7th St., Manhattan

from *Tenants and Neighbors* May 29, 2008

HOW THE LANDLORDS WEAKENED OUR RENT LAWS

How Tenants Lost – And How We Can Win Back What We Have Lost

Michael McKee, of the Tenants Political Action Committee (see tenantspac.org), has written a most informative report of how this happened — and what we can do to restore the laws that protect our homes and neighborhood diversity.

TO GET THE FULL REPORT: www.pwvta.org

RENT OVERCHARGE COMPLAINTS

There is a history of rent overcharges to new tenants in the three Columbus Avenue Buildings. The legal rent may be less than you are paying. Even if you signed an agreement not to challenge your rent, that is not valid.

For information and assistance, call the Park West Village Tenants' Association Hotline: 212-662-2610, or visit info@pwvta.org.

Major Capital Improvements (MCI's) INCREASES

Are you having problems understanding the rent bill notices regarding MCI increases? Go to the Management Office in 792 Columbus Avenue for an explanation of how the amounts were calculated and/or for resolution of any problems. If dissatisfied with the explanation or if problems are not resolved, call the PWVTA Hotline 212-662-2610 or visit info@pwvta.org and we'll do our best to help.

**Elected Officials Join Lawsuit
Westiders for Public Participation
Seeks Community Support**

At a meeting May 22, State Senator Bill Perkins stressed his commitment to join the lawsuit sparked by the new organization, Westiders for Public Participation. Congressman Charles Rangel, State Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell, and City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito have also agreed to join the suit in progress.

Paul Bunten, the suit's initiator, stated the commitment of the WPP:

- Assure every community stakeholder the legal right to public participation, in every decision that's made about the Park West Village community.
- Empower all community stakeholders by providing a focus for the contribution of services and funds in support of the Westiders for Public Participation community legal action.
- Provide leadership and education to the communities of New York City who want to remain livable within the current climate of rapid urban growth, by working with community stakeholders to identify and exercise their rights to public participation.

To receive weekly progress updates, community announcements, and news alerts, write westiders@earthlink.net with your name and street address. June is expected to be an active month in the life of the community legal action, and there will be frequent news.

Mail your contribution to Westiders for Public Participation, P.O. Box 20093, Park West Station, New York, NY 10025.

Trees Moved from Columbus Ave

Moving 21 trees on the east side of Columbus Avenue? This story sounds like the old "change the light bulb" jokes, but the tree move was no joke, taking weeks to do, and involving the Parks Department, the developers, the construction company, the Dept. of Transportation, Community Board 7, and our own Park West Village Tree Committee.

See www.pwvta.org for the full story and photos.



One transplanted Linden tree's new home on West 97th Street
Photo by Arthur Lu

Produced by the PWVTA Communications Committee.
Contributors: Win Armstrong, Judith Bloch, Francine Brewer, Paul Bunten, Dorri Jacobs, Emily Margolis, Miriamne Spector, Chuck Tice, and Florence Wagener. To help report, edit, compose, design, or distribute, call the PWVTA Hotline: 212-662-2610, or write Communications@pwvta.org.

WELCOME ASSOCIATE MEMBERS!

The PWVTA welcomes the support and participation of the condo owners of Park West Village who join us to help resolve common problems. Send us the coupon below – thanks in advance!

✂ JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS – RENEW NOW!

**PLEASE RETURN THIS MEMBERSHIP / ASSOCIATE 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:

Rent-stabilized tenant Market-rate tenant Renting from private owner Owner Email:

Check for 2008 membership dues enclosed, **payable to PWVTA**. \$40. Other*: \$.....

Check for 2008 associate membership dues enclosed, **payable to PWVTA** \$35.....

Check includes additional contribution to Legal fund. Amount:

*If you cannot make full \$40 payment of your annual dues, please pay what you can.
Your membership card will be delivered to you.
