

Welcome

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Pest Control Services

The building provides FREE routine pest control service twice a month. Send our super Cristian an email at super@201west16.org, or sign up in the mail room. In general pests in our building are controlled fairly well. But it can be extremely important to have this service done in your home at least occasionally, not only for you, but for your neighbors. One female cockroach can produce one million offspring in a lifetime, and the lifetime of a cockroach is only a year.

Special Assessment for 2014

The Board of Directors has voted unanimously to impose a special assessment of one month's maintenance in March 2014 to cover a portion of the cost associated with the replacement of our two boilers with two state of the art new boilers. The assessment will be payable in installments over six months with no finance charge. Any shareholders who choose to pay the assessment all at once when billed will receive a 2% discount.

Revised Proprietary Lease

The Board of Directors has redoubled efforts to revise the Proprietary Leases covering shareholder occupancy of their apartments. Our current lease dates to the early 1980s and there have been significant changes in the law since that time related to insurance, zoning, building code issues, revenue streams, building management, tax and many other issues. The new lease also reflects the fact that our building sponsor now holds only about 10% ownership.

At Last

On Thursday August 29 ConEd connected the new natural gas line to our two new boilers, allowing us to switch to clean burning, less expensive natural gas. Those of you who have been following this story for years in 201 News recall that the genesis of the installation of the new boilers was the deadline established in Mayor Bloomberg's GreenNYC initiative, mandating that all buildings stop using boilers that burn #6 fuel oil, as our 84-year-old boilers did. Though an expensive project, we anticipate that this change will pay for itself within about six years.

The 1% of NYC buildings that continue to burn #6 fuel oil put more pollution in our air than ALL of the cars and truck in NYC combined! But by mid-2015 they will have been fully phased out. Mayor Bloomberg announced in late September that a new survey of the air in New York City revealed that our air quality has reached the cleanest levels in more than 50 years.

Recycling in NYC – It's Expanded!

Empty, Recycle, Repeat says the new NYC ad campaign indicating that we can now recycle "everything." Well, almost everything. Food scraps from homes and apartments are not yet recyclable. But the program goes beyond glass, aluminum and paper to now include ALL plastic and ALL beverage cartons. While you previously had to know whether a certain plastic was recyclable, and that was admittedly difficult, now all plastics are recyclable. The city's goal is to double the amount of waste diverted from landfills by 2017. Except food items, kitty litter and a few other select materials that are still omitted, just about everything else is now right for recycling.

With this great news, a reminder to please recycle wisely. Make sure to package and stack recyclable materials so that they do not create smells or attract bugs or worse. Place materials in the area on your floor by the garbage chute without blocking stairs or halls. Please rinse all containers before recycling. The building staff collects these items two or three times a day, depending on the day.

They Lived Here?

This article is the third in a series highlighting the famous and maybe the infamous of past residents at 201 West 16th Street, all carefully and intriguingly researched by Board Member Rob Innes.

When the name Betty Ford comes to mind, we usually think of the late first lady, but during the 1990s 201 was home to a woman named Bette Ford who was famous in her own right. Our Bette Ford, whose original name was Harriet Elizabeth Dingeldein, began her career in New York as the Parliament Cigarette Girl in ads back in the days when tobacco was still advertised on television. Building on a modeling career that took her all around the world, she went on to be a featured performer on *The Jackie Gleason Show* and *The Jimmy Durante Show*. Now a career as a successful model and sometime actor is great, but not so rare in NYC. Here is where it gets interesting.

While on a modeling shoot in Bogotá, Columbia, Bette met the famous matador Luis Miguel Dominguin and decided in 1954 to train in bull fighting herself. She went on to become even more famous as the first titled woman bullfighter in the world, an honor she held with great pride. Warner Bros. made a documentary about her called *Beauty and the Bull*. She continued with her acting career and appeared in dozens of TV shows and movies through the 70s, 80s and 90s – and even has credits as recently as 2011. According to Wikipedia she is still alive and possibly even still working. After retiring from the bull fights, Bette returned to New York and lived in our building for a time where she often delighted fellow residents with stories from her colorful life. So maybe the First Lady never lived in 201, but the First Lady Bullfighter did!

