

Spring Plantings

Our hardworking Superintendent Cristian Covaci has been in gardening “high gear.” In the tree pits on W 16th Street, he dazzled us with great color in the early spring with a magical bulb collection. He then replaced this display with abundantly blooming multicolored begonias. The flowers will last through about June in the tree pits. He then plans a different midsummer planting to entertain us.

While this was going on at street level, Cristian also scheduled and supervised the maintenance contractor handling our rooftop aerie gardens, readying them for the 2019 season. Planters were cleaned, watering systems activated, weeds pulled, branches trimmed, large plants replaced and seasonal color added. They will be back to visit us several times this season for upkeep. If you see something with our plantings that you think needs attention, send an email to super@201W16.org. While on the subject of the rooftop terrace, this winter we replaced a door as well as steel railings and fire exit doors. The stairway from the 20th floor to the roof is being painted, all so that we start the season in great shape.

For Sale

In the last 201 News, we mentioned that the Co-op acquired apartment 10C through lease termination court proceedings. This C-line apartment is now for sale after repairs and a major cleaning and paint job. If you have any friends searching for a great studio apartment in Chelsea, this is the one. Tell them about it.

After a period of almost five years when no two-bedroom apartments have been for sale in our building, there are now two two-bedroom apartments on the market. 15A is in immaculate, modernized, bring-your-toothbrush condition, while 4A needs quite a bit of TLC. The two-bedroom units in our building have north, west and south exposures, a true rarity in NYC, and great layouts. If you know anyone who might be interested, now’s the chance to grab a two-bedroom unit that is rarely available in our building.

Annual Meeting of Shareholders

The annual meeting of shareholders of 201 West 16 Owners Corp will be held on **Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:30pm** in the same location where the meeting has now been held for more than 20 years, First Presbyterian Church at the SW corner of Fifth Avenue and 12th Street. We will meet in the Parish House through the entrance on 12th Street. Formal notice will be mailed in the next 30 days along with proxy materials. Please plan on attending. If you are unable to attend, please give your proxy to a neighbor or board member or mail it back to Tudor so that a quorum can be assembled.

Fatbergs!

This delightful term was introduced in England in 2013 by municipal sewer officials and since that time has reached the US with coverage in the NY Post and other media outlets – often with graphic photos. According to Wikipedia, a fatberg is “a congealed mass in a sewer system formed by the combination of non-biodegradable solid matter, such as wet wipes, and congealed grease or cooking fat. Fatbergs became a problem in the 2010s in England because of aging Victorian era sewers and the rise in use of disposable (so-called flushable) cloths.”

This problem for municipal sewer managers has now become much more local. With apologies, at right we have included a photo of a fatberg discovered at 201 – the result of flushing down “flushable” wet wipes (or similar cloth items) into our 90-year-old sewage pipes along with cooking oils. Our plumbing facilities are not capable of helping this mixture travel to the city sewer system. (Our plumbing also cannot accommodate in-sink garbage disposals or apartment-based washing machines, explaining why they are not allowed.) The fatberg you see here caused thousands of dollars’ worth of damage to our building, not to mention a disgusting, smelly, revolting mess in multiple apartments.

The 201 board of directors has evaluated this most recent fatberg incident along with collateral material developed by experts on the subject and made the decision that wet wipes and similar, “disposable” cloths must not be flushed into our sewer pipes. You can, of course, continue to use them, but should always dispose of them in the garbage, NOT via our building plumbing. The House Rules Section V (A) currently says that the plumbing will “not be used for any purpose for which it was not constructed,” and further that “rubbish, rags, or any articles” may not be placed in the plumbing of the building. This section will be amended to show that these modern day disposable “rags” are now prohibited in our sewage pipes.

If you dispose of these items via our plumbing system, it is very likely that a fatberg will develop. Moving forward, costs for handling any problems related to fatbergs or other improper use of our plumbing system will be at the offending shareholder’s expense.

DO NOT DISPOSE OF WET WIPES OR OTHER “DISPOSABLE” CLOTH ITEMS THROUGH OUR PLUMBING SYSTEM!

Building Equipment

One of our 90-year-old sump pumps in the basement failed in a cloud of smoke on a recent cool morning. About 15 years ago, we had the pump refurbished for a very minimal charge. Other than that, it has served us all day every day for 90 years. The contractor that installed it in 1928 or 1929 could probably not have imagined that this equipment would be in active service for 90 years. A replacement is in the works.



50 Year Stonewall Anniversary

2019 is the 50th Anniversary of the uprising at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village that is considered the birth of the modern Gay Pride Movement. What an amazing and successful journey – part of which many of us who live in NYC have witnessed firsthand. This year's Gay Pride Parade and weekend will celebrate this anniversary in what is expected to be one of the largest Pride celebrations ever. This year, the parade will not begin at our front door, but will begin at Madison Square Park near Fifth Avenue, and terminate at Eighth Avenue and 23rd Street after passing by the Stonewall Inn. As a result, it is unlikely that access to our building will be affected, though you might need to have ID ready. Do note also that travel may be restricted on streets throughout the West Village for many hours. The date is Sunday, June 30.

Graduation

It seems only a year ago that these pages reported **Kristie Anna Covaci** (daughter of our amazing super Cristian and his wife Carmen) was accepted to Vassar College. (We had to look up how to spell Poughkeepsie then and had to do it again now.) After four years of being constantly on the Dean's List, Kristie is graduating this month. Congratulations to Kristie and to proud parents Carmen and Cristian for their success in raising such a talented daughter.

Roof Deck Rules, Our Annual Reminder

Now that the weather is finally improving, many of us will venture up to our fantastic roof deck to enjoy the weather and our amazing views. Please keep in mind that residents live directly below the roof deck. Noise on the roof travels, so please do not drag furniture. If you must move something, pick it up. Keep voices at conversational levels. Also always keep the following rules for use of our roof deck in mind:

- Hours: 7:00am-11:00pm. Monitored by CCTV.
- All guests must be accompanied by a shareholder.
- Minors must be accompanied by an adult resident.
- Noise of all kinds, including speaking voices, should be kept low.
- Please leave the roof deck as clean as or even cleaner than when you arrived.
- Absolutely **NO**:
 - > SMOKING OF ANY KIND
 - > Music (unless via headphones)
 - > Storing of personal property
 - > Parties without prior authorization
 - > Throwing, tossing, letting fall, losing control of any items from the deck
 - > Tampering with the plantings, planters or other equipment

They Lived Here?

This article is the fifth in an occasional series highlighting the famous and maybe the infamous among past residents at 201 West 16th Street. Past articles have included David Dubinski, the noted labor leader, Bette Ford, the female bull fighter, Paul Mandel, author and grandson of 201's founder, and Patricia Lancaster, the first female Commissioner of the NYC Department of Buildings.



This time the series takes us to the youngest notable past resident included in this series: **Michael Schur**, who was a shareholder in 5B. Michael writes extensively and prolifically for television and is a two-time Emmy Award winner. He has written for many well-known programs, including "Saturday Night Live," "The Office," "Parks and Recreation" (co-creator), "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" and "The Good Place." He appeared in "The Office" in several episodes as character Mose Schrute. He was also co-producer of "The Comeback."

In addition to work on dozens of projects over the years (at only 43 years old), he is also author of a sports blog under the nom de plum Ken Tremendous.

He is from Ann Arbor Michigan and currently lives in Los Angeles. He is married to Jennifer Philbin, a television writer ("The O.C.") and the daughter of Regis Philbin.