

## February 2010

### Free Bagels in the Lobby and Neighborly Discounts



**Chelsea Bagel Cafe**, now around the corner at 139 W. 14th Street, is bringing a free breakfast for residents to the Vermeer lobby on Saturday, March 20 from 8:30 to 9:30 AM.

The **McBurney YMCA** on 14th is used by many Vermeer residents. And not only because it's so close. The Y offers Vermeer residents a 20% discount. Check at the Y for more information.

The **Rubin Museum** at 17th and 7th has a special \$35 membership rate for all residents of zip code 10011 and 10001.

### Walgreens Buys Duane Reade

The national chain Walgreens has agreed to purchase all Duane Reade drug stores. It is expected that Duane Reade stores will keep their name after the sale. Our lease provides that in the event of a sale to another drugstore, the terms and conditions of the current lease will continue.

### Spring Sprucing

All doors in the Vermeer are being repainted, beginning with stairwell doors. Once these are finished, a schedule will be posted showing when work will take place on each floor. This will not involve entering any apartments and shareholders can keep their doors locked.

### Bike Room Expansion

Because of a growing waiting list, the board is getting proposals from contractors for adding more spaces in the Bike Room. In order to minimize the cost of any changes, shareholders will be asked to re-register their bikes to identify any orphaned bikes that might be removed to free up some spaces first.

### AUTOMATED PACKAGE TRACKING AND MORE!!!

The Vermeer is in the process of contracting with BuildingLink to provide computer tracking of packages and deliveries. BuildingLink is a company with more than 700 clients in New York and other cities that brings computer technology to the management of residential buildings.

Once the system is installed residents will be able to see on a monitor in the lobby if they have a package. BuildingLink also will provide internet pages to replace the forms and information now available on The Vermeer Web site. Residents will be able to submit work orders, guest forms and survey responses by internet as well as turning them in at the desk.



And this is just the beginning. The BuildingLink program offers a wide variety of applications for communications in a residential building. As residents and staff learn about the system more uses may be added, but this will not replace communications with residents who do not use computers. The cost of this system is similar to the cost of maintaining our current web site. To know more about the possibilities look up BuildingLink.com.

### POTENTIAL BUILDING STAFF STRIKE

The citywide contract with Local 32B-32J the Building Service Employees Union expires on April 20, 2010.

If an agreement is not reached by then, all our employees, except the Super, will go on strike. This hasn't happened for years, but, if it seems a possibility, measures will be put in place to ensure the safety and welfare of all Vermeer residents.

Volunteers will be asked to sign up to help at the door. Residents will be informed of the details in April as the deadline draws near.

## **NO SMOKING IN PUBLIC AREAS**



Under the NYC Smoke Free Air Act of 2002 smoking is prohibited in enclosed public spaces in residential buildings and that includes our lobby and other enclosed public areas in the Vermeer.

Smoking is not banned in individual apartments, but smokers should be considerate of their neighbors. Smoke from individual apartments travels to the corridors and to other apartments.

The Board has received complaints from parents of small children about smoke wafting from neighboring apartments into theirs.

## **AIR MONITORS PROTECT US ALL**

Artie's Hardware (140 W. 14th St.) offers Vermeer residents a discount on combined CO and gas detectors. Although gas detectors are not currently required, the Vermeer Board urges residents to install one, especially where stoves have old fashioned pilot lights. Gas leaks can make apartment residents sick and could even cause explosions.

Smoke and CO detectors are required by law. Residents are reminded to regularly replace batteries.

## **AND SPEAKING OF MONITORING**

Cameras are being installed at the stairwell entrances to the roof. These will allow the staff to monitor who enters the roof in the event of vandalism and disturbances.

## ***Final Garage Repair***

The final repairs on the garage have begun and should be finished within a month. Please report any problems to Matt Abisch at Orsid. (212)484-3760.

## **Lost and Regrettably Found:**

*One ripe pumpkin--16th floor compactor room.  
Unwashed cat food containers--15th floor compactor room.  
Loose mail with ID information--20th floor compactor room.*

It doesn't take much to make a mess! AND  
INVITE RODENTS!

## ***Neighbors' Outreach Can Provide Temporary Help***

Many more Vermeer residents have offered to give help than requested it. Shareholders, of any age, with a temporary need for shopping or other assistance because of broken bones, surgery, or some illness should take advantage of this. Let the desk or a board member know if you want a neighbor to contact you.

## ***Revised Alterations Policies***

The house rules on alterations have been amended to include the current rates of any architectural fees incurred by the building to review plans that are the shareholder's responsibility. They also broaden requirements for informing neighbors of any work that will generate noise.

Copies are in the alterations policy and the agreement that must be approved before work begins. These are available on the website [www.TheVermeer.com](http://www.TheVermeer.com).

## **Time Warner Rates**

Time Warner cable rates will increase on March 1st. Vermeer residents continue to get a discount rate of 22% off the retail price for basic cable. From March 1st, Time Warner subscribers will be billed \$70.75 on their maintenance bill.

Please be sure to let management know if you sign up for (or discontinue) Time Warner. Any services beyond basic cable are billed separately directly to the subscriber. If you have any questions, call Matt Abisch at Orsid (212)484-3760.

## ***Animal Committee Meeting***

The Companion Animal Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 30th. The time will be posted in the lobby.



## **NEW SHAREHOLDERS**

Michael Matthew-6C  
Frank Escobar-12H