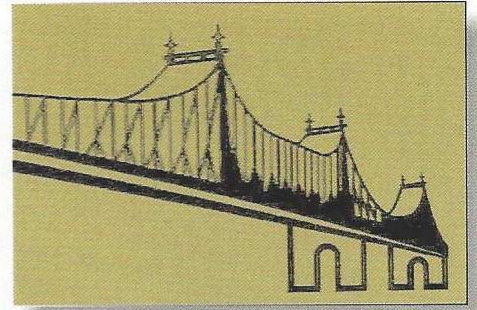


SAC NEWS BULLETIN



The Rats Were Here: Now They're Gone

How your dues and donations solved a major problem

On a one-block strip of First Avenue, between 54th and 55th Streets, rats had taken over. The tree beds were riddled with rat holes and the creatures could be seen at night boldly scurrying between their holes and nearby garbage bags and cans. Tree roots were endangered and one local retail merchant put up a sign on a tree warning about the rat problem. Not only did the rat infestation pose a threat to health, but it was impossible to beautify the tree beds; the rodents would promptly dig up the plants and toss them and their dirt on the sidewalk.

Along came Sutton Area Community and its Pied Piper Beautification Committee Chair, Vangeli Kaseluris. The rats are gone! Early attempts by Vangeli and SAC president Dr. Charles Coutinho to enlist the aid of local politicians were unsuccessful. Communications were either ignored or there was no follow-up after initial contact. State Senator Liz Kruegar's office, however, was very helpful and responsive. We learned prior complaints to the Department of Health were noted but no violations were ever issued so there was no action taken. The Department of Sanitation, with the help of Kruegar's office, visited the local merchants and educated them on proper trash procedures, but no action was taken to rid us of the rats.

It was time to make things happen. It is generally known that if you need New York City to take action, like to replace a dead tree, you're talking about a year or more before it's done. Our problem could not wait. We hired a pest control company and at a cost of \$1,800 and the rats were exterminated. Looking to the future, the Department of Health has promised to keep in touch with local merchants to discuss preemptive action.

Where else does your money go?

Tree beds in the Sutton area are framed with wrought iron fencing, purchased and maintained by SAC. We found many of them to be missing, broken, or bent—perhaps by cars and trucks backing into them. We have hired an iron works company to repair

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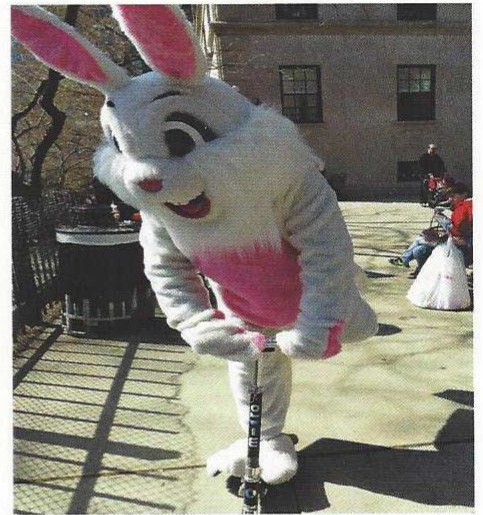


Before



After

SAC Sponsored Egg Hunt



On Sunday, April 8th, the Easter Bunny cheered participants at the Sutton Area Community (SAC) Annual Egg Hunt. The event took place at the Sutton Place Park, East 57th Street

between Sutton Place and the East River. Notwithstanding a certain chill in the air, the event was attended by several hundred children ages from one to eight, with their parents. The major efforts of SAC board members Marjorie Posner and Lenore Barton, who took the lead in organizing the event this year. Over fifteen hundred eggs were filled with chocolates and were carefully hidden in Sutton Place Park. At the appointed time, first a cohort of 1 to 4 year-olds and then 5 to 8-years old were let loose and proceeded to run, scamper and generally endeavor

Egg Hunt continued page 4