



General Meeting

Reclaiming Our Streets for Pedestrians!

- **Film: *Streetscapes***
- **Proposed Curb Extensions**

When: Thursday, February 5, 6:45 P.M.

Where: Cosi's (back room), 2186 Broadway (77th)

OUR BLOCK ASSOCIATION has been brainstorming ways to make our streets and sidewalks serve the needs of all members. We have attended Community Board 7 meetings as well as Green Committee and Transportation Committee meetings. We have engaged with other block associations, talked to our neighbors, learned about other great cities, and worked with the Upper West Side Streets Renaissance Campaign leaders. In the end, we feel strongly that the first step to reaching our goals of safer, healthier, and greener spaces would be to add curb extensions to all 75th Street intersections from Central Park West to Riverside Drive.

A curb extension is a horizontal extension of the sidewalk into the street, which reduces the crossing distance at an intersection. There are multiple benefits of a curb extension: shorter crossing distances; better visibility of pedestrians to drivers and vice versa; and smaller through space and turning radiuses for vehicles, forcing them to slow down; extra space to display greenery or an art installation, among other advantages. These benefits are especially important for the elderly, people with impaired mobility, and families with young children.

As NYC prepares to welcome additional residents, it is essential to re-think how we use our public spaces. For generations, New Yorkers have strolled, shopped, and socialized on sidewalks and street corners.

Pedestrian-friendly spaces are one of the city's most fundamental assets, yet our streets are managed almost

entirely for traffic flow. We believe that streets are more than just car corridors. They are valuable civic spaces, a precious resource which must be wisely allocated.

At our February 5 meeting we will start planning our neighborhood to focus on our growing number of pedestrians. We will also screen a short film, *Streetscapes*. We hope you will all join us for this very important dialogue

—Dee Rieber

Inside Riverside Park Fund

For many of us, Riverside Park is our backyard; it's a place where we watch



PHOTO: MARY RATCLIFFE

Hamilton Fountain

our children grow and play and where adults can go to relax and exercise.

Because the Park is important to us, we're lucky there's an organization working hard to conserve, improve, and beautify it. Riverside Park Fund's mission is to maintain and enhance New York's classic waterfront green space. Stretching over four miles along the Hudson River from 59th to 158th Streets, the 330 acres of Riverside Park serve a uniquely diverse population. From rehabilitated playing fields to horticultural projects to creative playgrounds, Riverside Park Fund projects make the Park cleaner, greener, safer, and better.

This past fall, Riverside Park Fund raised money from our neighborhood to restore the Hamilton Fountain and Plaza at 76th Street and Riverside Drive. The Fund will restore the fountain to working order, repave the surrounding plaza with hexagonal paving blocks, and plant four new Princeton Elms for increased shade. In addition, the marble eagle atop the 102-year-old fountain will be restored to its

original condition, and improved seating will be added to the plaza. Work will begin in late spring.

To keep up to date with all things going on in Riverside Park, sign up for the Fund's e-blasts or become a member of Riverside Park Fund: log on to www.riversideparkfund.org.

—Scot Steinberg

Ring Out the Old Year...

The holiday party in December was a lovely affair with many people braving the torrential rainstorm to come out and share time with neighbors and friends! Gale Brewer came by to wish the Association well! David Endo, new merchant at Amsterdam and 77th (Vitamin Peddler) was there as well. He is open for your business!

Our charity of choice for 2008 was Meals on Wheels. The consensus was that in these challenging times our funds should go to the most vulnerable among us and involve a basic necessity—food. A \$500 contribution was made to Meals on Wheels. We also donated \$100 to the Coalition for a Livable West Side. Many of you are aware of the Coalition's on-going efforts and advocacy in our community!

December brought new and renewed members: Kathy Devine, Kathleen Fowler, Harriet Hochberg, Maya and Michael Naunton, George and Karen Satran, Scot and Jill Steinberg, Orlando Valencia, Nina Webb. Welcome to all of our new members and welcome back to our renewing members!!!

And Ring In 2009...

Happy New Year to all! And welcome to new leaders for 2009: Liz Devito, secretary-treasurer; Scot Steinberg, small business outreach; and Seta Wehbe, beautification

Here are a few of our 2009 goals for the Block Association:

- A directory of local merchants from 66th to -86th Street, (see "Stop and Shop and Mom and Pop," Pg 2).
- Two beautification days: Central Park West to Columbus and Columbus to Amsterdam
- Participation in Transportation Alternatives' Parking Day, where



PHOTO: DEE RIEBER

Curb extension at the southeast corner of West 94th Street and Amsterdam reduces crossing distances to for pedestrians.

one spot on each block is reclaimed as a recreational hangout for folks on the block

- Initiatives to make pedestrian traffic safer: i.e., curb extensions at our intersections.

These are in addition to all of our other wonderful activities, thanks to our growing numbers!!!

Ian Alterman and Scot Steinberg are spearheading the directory of our local merchants! The project is well under way and has gained the support of Gale Brewer!

We are working closely with Transportation Alternatives on safety initiatives for our sidewalks. Proposed changes include curb extensions, which we will be discussing at our February 5 meeting. .

We also plan to add at least five new sturdy tree guards where needed. Please give us your recommendations on their locations E-mail us at info@w75ba.org.

Stop and Shop and Mom and Pop

When it comes to the continued loss of proprietor-owned and “mom and pop”-type businesses, one of the main problems is that local residents often do not know what alternatives they have to chain stores and corporate-owned businesses. “What nearby alternatives do I have to Duane Reade? To Starbucks? To Petland? To The Children’s Place? Where can I go for clothing or shoes to help keep a local business in business?”

The West 75th Street Block Association, with the assistance of Council member Gale Brewer, is doing something about this on the Upper West Side. In a few months, residents will have a comprehensive, easy-to-follow guide to local and proprietor-owned businesses between 66th and 86th Streets, from park to park. This guide will include not only the name, address and telephone number of the business, but the owner/proprietor’s name, website/e-mail addresses, length of time in business, and, for those who may have difficulty get-

ting around, whether that business (particularly pharmacies) delivers. For the first time, local residents will be able to consciously and deliberately support the local businesses that make our community so diverse and vibrant.

It is, of course, possible that many of the businesses included in our guide will be slightly more expensive than chain stores and corporate-owned businesses. However, statistics indicate that it is the smaller, local stores that are responsible for the economic stability of a neighborhood. Therefore, we ask our neighbors to consider that even if they pay a few pennies more for the same items, they will be contributing to maintaining the diversity of the community by keeping “mom and pop” shops in business, and helping to fight off the rampant “corporatization” of our neighborhoods with “big box” and chain stores

*Scot Steinberg and Ian Alterman
Co-Chairs, Small Business Committee*

Movies Starring the West Side

With Oscar time approaching, we thought you might like to know a few of the movies that have been filmed on the Upper West Side.

Annie Hall (1977) Featured two movie theaters located in the Upper West Side. The scene where Woody Allen and Diane Keaton are in line for tickets was shot in the lobby of The New Yorker movie theater (89th & Broadway), the second scene is a shot of the Thalia Theater at 95th and Broadway. The last scene in the film is shot in a restaurant on 64th and Broadway facing Lincoln Center.

The Apartment (1960) The movie took place in an apartment located on West 67th Street.

Death Wish (1974) Scenes were filmed on location in an apartment at 33 Riverside Drive, on West 75th Street, and in Riverside Park. **Die Hard: With a Vengeance** (1995) A scene takes place outside the subway station at 72nd Street and Broadway.

Eyes Wide Shut (1999) The characters played by Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman live in an apartment located on Central Park West.

Ghostbusters (1984) Sigourney Weaver’s character lives at 55 Central Park West at 66th Street.

Heartburn (1986) Meryl Steep’s character takes refuge in her father’s spacious apartment at the Aphorp, on Broadway at 79th, after her marriage to Jack Nicholson’s character falls apart.

Little Manhattan (2005) The whole movie took place in the Upper West Side. Includes scenes from Septuagesimo Uno (the smallest NYC public park, on West 71st Street between Amsterdam Ave and West End Avenue).

Manhattan (1979) Features a scene in the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History.

The Naked City (1948) First film ever shot on location in New York City, as opposed to studio lots. The murder occurs at 52 West 83rd Street and the 20th Precinct is called the 20th Squadron..

Night at the Museum (2006) The setting is in the Museum of Natural History.

The Panic in Needle Park (1971) Starring Al Pacino is set in Sherman Square, which is at the intersection of Broadway and 70th Street.

Rosemary’s Baby (1968), The apartment building takes places in The Dakota.

Single White Female (1992) The apartment building is The Ansonia.

West Side Story (1961) The movie takes place in tenements around 66th Street where Lincoln Center is today.

—Scot Steinberg

Get Well Wishes...

May Cathy Tsitsires, our faithful newsletter distributor, and Anne Cunningham, Council Member Gale Brewer’s assistant, enjoy speedy recoveries and renewed good health in the new year!.

Plan Ahead

Currently scheduled

W75BA events:

- February 5: General Meeting
- April 2: General Meeting
- April 25: Earth Day, Block Promotion

WEST 75TH STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL PARK WEST TO RIVERSIDE DRIVE
www.w75ba.org / info@w75ba.org
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____
Date _____

DUES: INDIVIDUAL \$15/YR, FAMILY, \$25/YR, MERCHANT/\$50/YR

Mail application with check to
W75BA, 33 Riverside Drive, #2A, New York, NY 10023
For more information: info@w75ba.org

W75BA NEWSLETTER

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*We welcome contributions
from members.*