



GENERAL MEETING: SLIVER ON W75?

When: Thursday, November 10, 6:45 – 9:00 P.M.

Where: Manhattan Day School Library, 310 West 75th Street

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Annual Potluck Holiday Party ! (bring a dish to share!)

When: Thursday, December 15, 6:45 – 9:00 P.M.

Where: 240 West 75th Street

Sliver Building Proposed for W75

Sliver buildings are tall slender buildings constructed on lots with a narrow frontage, typically 45 feet or less. The now defunct New York City Board of Estimate banned these type of structures from many residential zoning districts in New York City in 1983 in response to community protests. Is W75 destined to see a sliver in our neighborhood?

Led by member Pat Kiernan, W75BA is joining forces with neighbors to hinder a 10-unit, 14-story “sliver” high-end condo building at 207 West 75th Street — a short, already overcrowded block.

The lot is 107' 5½" x 25". and was sold April 28 to The Philippe for 5½ million dollars. Permits currently exist for a façade renovation and a construction fence. The owner has applied for five variances with the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) that would allow him to build to the height of 14 stories.

After two well attended Community Board 7 Land Use Committee meetings, where community members opposed to the project well outnumbered those siding with the developer, the committee voted to reject the developers' request for a variance to build above seven stories. The developer claims that this would present a financial hardship for him.



Rendering of proposed sliver building for 207 West 75th Street

The full community board reviewed the findings by the Land Use Committee on November 1 and concluded that the developer should not be given any variances.

This only provides an “advisory” opinion that the BSA should reject the application, but it’s a great foundation for the arguments that we will make in a few weeks at the first public hearing on the sliver building variances on November 30.

— *Mary Ratcliffe and Dee Rieber*

Come Celebrate the Holidays

W75BA will celebrate the season with our annual potluck party on Thursday, December 15, from 6:45 to 9:00 P.M., at 240 West 75th Street. Guests are asked to bring a crowd-pleasing dish to the table.

Come share this exuberant evening with friends and neighbors. Be ready for good eat and drink, and making music around the piano. Singing well is not a requirement; enthusiasm, though, is expected! Play a guitar or other portable instrument? Bring it.

And you won’t want to miss the Third Annual Community Wine and Dessert Party at POUR, Amsterdam Avenue at West 75th, on Sunday, December 4, at 7:45 P.M.

Mark your calendars now!

W75BA President Dee Rieber Receives WESTY Award

The WESTY (West Side Spirit Thanks You) Awards recognize the special contributions of individuals to the West Side community — organizational and civic leaders who work specifically within the neighborhood, and West Side residents who make special contributions to the greater New York City community.

Dee Rieber, W75BA president, and Melissa Elstein of the West 80s Neighborhood Association, were among 20 winners and are the first recipients of Neighborhood Association WESTYs. They were recognized for spearheading formation of the Coalition of Block
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Dan Rieber, Dee Rieber, and Melissa Elstein on Columbus Avenue.

PHOTO: ANDREW SCHWARZ WEST SIDE SPIRIT

Losing — and Gaining — Trees on W75



Before



After

We lost this tree in early October. With an assist from Gale Brewer, we will be getting new trees for all our barren treebeds in compensation. Plans are in the making to install a bench or planter in the empty tree bed. Stay tuned!

BLOCK BLAST 2011

The universe smiled and said...

This is what community looks like!

A **huge** thanks goes out to all the volunteers who helped make BLOCK BLAST 2011 the best ever!

- Alan Ando of Eastern Mountain Sports for donating tables and hanging out with us throughout the day.
- Auxiliary Police Officers of the 20th Poice Precinct for being with us a good bit of the day providing security and lots of smiles!
- Liz DeVito and Harriet Hochberg for tirelessly “wo”manning the head table all day. Also for meeting at 7:30 to count funds and wrap up the event on the administrative side.
- John Casey for set up, food pick up, breakdown, and all through the day.
- Paul Collacio, resident manager at 240 W 75th for extension cords, signage, and set up.
- Santiago Figueroa, resident manager of 235 W 75th for the power needed to generate our sound system.
- Kathy Fowler, Dorothy King, and

Louis Kleinman for helping to breakdown the event.

- Patience Freeman and Denise Freeman for picking up and serving the food.
- Mary Ratcliffe, our wonderful webmaster for wonderful brochures/flyers for the event.
- Dan Rieber for coordinating the vendors, set, breakdown, and everything in between.
- Bruce Stark of Beacon Paint and Hardware for helping us get chairs and a canopy, which thankfully we did not really need.
- Tom, the resident manager at 325 West End Avenue for storing our tables and being a great neighbor.
- Barbara Woods for getting raffles donations and helping set up.



Volunteers John Casey, Barbara Woods, and Harriet Hochberg were joined by resident and NY1 newsman Pat Kiernan (center) and Alan Ando of Eastern Mountain Sports (right).



The rain didn't come to our September block fair, but the shoppers did. Could this visitor be texting a friend about bargains to be found on West 75th Street?

Thanks also to Councilmember Gale Brewer, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, Mel Wymore of Community Board 7.

Big Hugs to Our Raffle Donors and Food Sponsors:

- Eastern Mountain Sports
- Beacon Paint and Hardware
- Viand Café
- Feline Day Spa
- Citarella
- Modell's
- Lush
- Jacques Torres
- Pour Wine
- Dive Bar
- Fairway
- Cottage Restaurant
- Miccass Physical Therapy
- Dr. Sheldon Kupper
- Alfred Durante

Lunch Provided By:

- Pappardella Restaurant
- Viand Café
- West Side Market

Be sure to visit these merchants and thank them. Their support is vital to W75BA endeavors. You can find contact information at www.w75ba.org/merchantsupport.html (address, phone, web URLs).

Thanks to vendors for being with us despite predctios of rain, and to all who supported this event.

—Dee Rieber



We introduced the W75BA Café at BLOCK BLAST 2011.



Face painting is always popular. Should Lady Gaga be worried?



There was dancing on the street, with music provided by the Narwals.

See more photos from BLOCK BLAST 2011 on the website: www.w75ba.org



A child clambers up into the Bouncy Castle to join the jumpers.

WESTY Award to Dee Rieber

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and Community Leaders (CBCL) from 34th Street through 116th Street on the West Side for the purpose of sharing best practices to improve outcomes across neighborhoods and communities.

Rieber and Elstein teamed up last spring after realizing that West Side communities shared similar concerns. With the help of the West 55th Street Block Association's Carl Bevelhimer and Rieber's husband, Dan, the idea took off.

"We both work really hard and are very committed, but we didn't do this by ourselves," said Elstein. "We want people to understand that it's an association."

Added Rieber, "It's exciting, because it's not about our work but the work of hundreds of people ... recognizing everyone in the field."

Dee has been instrumental in W75BA's success; her dedicated leadership has made this an outstanding

community organization. We congratulate her!

WESTY winners are determined by the *West Side Spirit* editorial board from submitted recommendations and receive a crystal apple inscribed with their names, the year, and their award category.

Hydrofracking Is Still in the News

The issue of hydrofracking for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale in New York State, which W75BA has been discussing for two years, is ever present in our news.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), with Governor Cuomo's tacit approval, has proposed opening nearly 85 percent of the Marcellus Shale to natural gas drilling, called *hydrofracking*, an unsafe process.

Across the country, gas production using fracking has been

linked to contaminated drinking water and a variety of other health and environmental threats.

People who live close to natural gas drilling in four states complain of similar health symptoms, ranging from respiratory infections to lesions and neurological problems, but there is little science or study to get at the cause of their ailments.

Serious questions remain about whether this process can be safely used in New York, since no thorough environmental review has ever been conducted.

For good information on Hydro-Fracking go to: www.propublica.org/series/fracking. A 60-day public comment period began in September after the DEC released its final draft plan.

— Dee Rieber

Merchant Profile: Pappardella

When my mother, the dairy farmer's daughter from Neptune, New Jersey, married my father, the son of immigrants from Salerno, Italy, there was much angst within la famiglia that my father was doomed to live on a diet of "Methodist" casseroles and overcooked vegetables. Family legend has it that my Nana, tired of the drama, famously said, "Basta! Enough! There's a bit of Italy in everyone."

Truer words were never spoken, as my mother later proved with her mastery of Italian cooking, and I thought of them as I sat down to write about Pappardella, the Tuscan restaurant on the corner of 75th Street and Columbus Ave. owned by Mr. Vijay Gupta.

Vijay arrived in New York from his native India in the 1970's. One of the first things he noticed was that Italian eateries on the Upper West Side were rare. "There was nothing I could find between Lincoln Center and the lower 100's, so I decided to open one myself." He launched Pappardella, named after his favorite pasta, in

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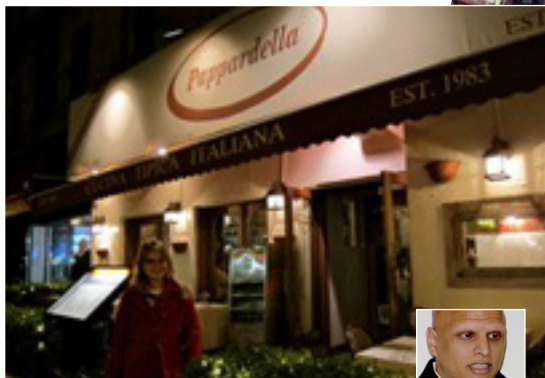
Pappardella

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1983. Pappardella is across the street from Mughlai, another one of Vijay's restaurant holdings that also include Dawat in midtown.

Pappardella specializes in the flavors and food of Tuscany. The menu features homemade pasta, artisanal pizza, and other Italian staples, like chicken parmigiana, grilled branzino, and tiramisu. The eponymous pappardella comes with sausage and peas in a vodka sauce and also with truffles in a wild mushroom ragù, and there are a dozen other pastas to choose from. I know from experience how friendly the waiters are and how knowledgeable about wine.

Being a vegetarian, Vijay is more sensitive than most restaurateurs



Inset: Sid Gupta



to special diets. There are menu items for diabetics and those on a

gluten-free diet. Knicks superstar, Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, who was diagnosed with Type II diabetes in 1998, counts Pappardella among his favorite restaurants for its diabetes-friendly food.

You may have tasted Pappardella's homemade ziti if you've ever had lunch at W75BA's annual block party. Vijay has generously donated large trays of both vegetarian pasta and pasta with Tuscan sauce for four years now, and we think it's the main reason that lunch is the most popular attraction each year.

I recently learned that Vijay is handing Pappardella over to his son, Sid, another friend and supporter of W75BA.

I will be dropping by to say



hello and good luck to Sid who, like his father, no doubt has more than a little bit of Italy lurking in his soul.

— Liz DeVito

Mailbox Cleanup and Painting



Dan Rieber, W75BA; Bruce Stark, Beacon Paint & Hardware; Alan Ando, Eastern Mountain Sports



Tanner Rich, Eastern Mountain Sports

In September, Beacon Paint and Hardware and Eastern Mountain Sports joined forces to spruce up the neighborhood in the fifth annual mailbox cleanup and painting.

We cannot say it often enough: W75BA owes a lot to the enthusiastic support of our local merchants. How can you thank them? Shop local and often!

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

Editor: Mary Ratcliffe
Contributors: Liz DeVito, Mary Ratcliffe, Dee Rieber

Coming Events:

- Sunday, December 4:
Community Wine & Dessert Party
- Thursday, December 15:
W75BA Annual Holiday Pot Luck

Design & Layout: Mary Ratcliffe
Color Printing: Halstead Property LLC

We welcome contributions from members. Send to: info@w75ba.org