



General Meeting

Crime Prevention in a Declining Economy

How safe are we when city budgets shrink?

When: Thursday, April 2, 6:45 P.M.

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

CRIME PREVENTION in a declining economic climate is the hot topic for our April general meeting. You'll want to learn how the city's budget woes will affect our neighborhood. What will be the impact on policing? What can—and should—we do as residents?

Guest speakers Richard Aborn, attorney with Constantine/Cannon, who is running for the office of District Attorney, and Chief Inspector Keith Spadaro, commanding officer of the 20th Precinct, will address our concerns and answer our questions.

Refreshments — of course.

Public Hearing on W75BA's Application for Curb Extensions, RSD to CPW, Is Scheduled for Tuesday, April 14

Those of you who attended our last general meeting know the safety benefits of curb extensions. They—

- reduce pedestrian crossing distances,
- make pedestrian crossing points more visible to drivers,
- prevent vehicles from passing, other vehicles that are turning,
- may visually enhance the street through landscaping,
- do not slow emergency vehicles,
- enhance service at transit stops by moving the curb so riders step directly between the sidewalk and bus door.

Google "Curb Extensions" to learn more and see pictures and diagrams.

We urge you to attend Community Board #7's Transportation Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 P.M., at 250 West 87th Street (Broadway). *Your voice will be important!* Any

committee resolution pertaining to our application will be voted on by the full Board on Tuesday, May 5, beginning at approximately 7:30 P.M. at Fordham University, 113 West 60th Street (Columbus Avenue.)

Look for this reminder notice—and come (or comment) to CB#7 about this important issue affecting our street! E-mail us if you need help getting there.

COMMUNITY BOARD 7'S TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
WILL DISCUSS A REQUEST TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR
CURB EXTENSIONS AT EVERY INTERSECTION
BETWEEN RIVERSIDE DRIVE AND WEST 75TH STREET,
AND CENTRAL PARK WEST AND WEST 75TH STREET.
ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009,
BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM AT 250 WEST 87TH STREET
(BROADWAY)

WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AND GIVE
YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS APPLICATION. OR SEND YOUR
COMMENTS TO US.
PHONE: (212) 362-4008
FAX: (212) 595-9317
E-MAIL: OFFICE@CB7.ORG



Elephant Park

Restoring the Elephant Park Playground

Many families with young children, and older residents with visiting grandchildren, use the Neufeld Elephant Playground at 76th Street in Riverside Park. After many years of heavy use, the playground is starting to show its age and needs a face lift.

Three years ago a group of neighbors, in partnership with Riverside Park Fund, embarked on a campaign to renovate the playground. Plans include replacing all deteriorating safety surfaces with a soft safety surface,

replacing both large pieces of play equipment with more modern apparatus, painting the swings and replacing their seats, updating the sandbox, and refreshing the plantings. The estimated cost is \$300,000.

For the past two years, a September fair for young children and their families has been held in the playground and basketball court, raising \$30,000. City Council Member Gale Brewer has secured \$150,000 in public monies, and an additional \$30,000 has come from other sources. Still needed: \$90,000.



PHOTOS: SCOT STEINBERG



If you would like to make a donation to the restoration of Elephant Park, contact the Riverside Park Fund at (212) 870-3070 or visit www.riversideparkfund.org. A tax-deductible gift in any amount will be welcome. Sponsoring a bench with a custom message is \$2,500 — a reduction of \$1,000 from the usual cost of bench sponsorship in Riverside Park.

—Scot Steinberg

Keep It Local!

As unveiled at our last meeting, W75BA is creating a directory entitled “Stop’n’Shop@Mom’n’Pop” which focuses on proprietor-owned businesses that provide alternatives to the chains and “big box” stores, thus keeping our merchant community diverse and vibrant.

That project continues apace—and we can use your help! The first stage of the directory will be Web-based, with a limited hand-out. We expect to have these ready by early June. The second stage will be a full-size brochure with even more information. We expect to have that printed by September.

Right now, we just need a handful (or more!) of people who are willing to do some easy Internet research.

We will provide lists of businesses (50 per list), and we need basic info for each: address, telephone number, Web site, hours. And although the deadline for getting the info back to us is May 10, if you were to obtain the info for just five businesses each evening (about 15 minutes of research), you could complete the list in 10 days. (If you want to do more than one list, be our guest!) To help, E-mail us: info@w75ba.org!”

—Dee Rieber and Scot Steinberg

Poetry on Broadway at Cosi’s

COME ONE...COME ALL!! Out of the Box Theatre Company will host a poetry night at Cosi’s on Broadway at 77th Street on Saturday, April 25!

The idea is the brainchild of an alumnus of the Brooklyn College MFA program in theater, Scott Robinson, ’92, who founded Out of the Box Theatre Company and serves as artistic director. Scott is also a member of the West 75th Street Block Association. Other involved Block Association members are John Goldman and Dan and Dee Rieber, who all serve on the company’s board of directors.

Breathing new life into theater works that have been around a long time is only one part of the equation for the Out of the Box Theatre Company. The other part is giving actors who’ve been around a long time the opportunity to



PHOTO: DEE RIEBER

bring the passions and talents of their long experience to roles they may never have had a chance to play.

The company primarily features actors, directors, and set designers over the age of 50. “One thing that I thought would make my theater company special,” said Robinson, “was allowing older actors an opportunity to revisit roles that maybe now they’d be too old to play commercially.”

After graduating from Brooklyn College, Robinson began a career in television commercials. He also served as executive producer and artistic director of the Lake Area Performing Arts Guild in Lake Ozark, Missouri, where he learned all aspects of running a theater company, from fund raising to ticket sales.

“It was an extremely good training ground for what I’m doing now,” he said.

Still More Movies Filmed On the Upper West Side!

In our last issue, we listed some of the movies that have been filmed on the Upper West Side. Readers were quick to remind us about favorites that were omitted.

Bruce Stark (Beacon Paint and Hardware) weighed in with

The Goodbye Girl, starring Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason. West 78th Street. Dreyfuss won Best Actor Oscar for that.

Mr. Saturday Night, directed by and starring Billy Crystal. Also West 78th Street. Earned co-star David Paymer a Best Supporting Actor nomination.

The Seven-Ups, starring Roy Scheider. Car chase took place around West Side, including Amsterdam Avenue and West 78th Street.

The Sunshine Boys, starring Walter Mathau and George Burns. Burns won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. Shot at the Ansonia Hotel.

Next to be heard from, Laurent Nahon, (Laurent Tours, LLC), who wrote, “I especially enjoyed reading Scot Steinberg’s list of movies filmed on the UWS. May I add to that list:

You’ve Got Mail!, another movie by Nora Ephron (former Apthorp dweller). Tom Hanks was quoted as saying “We shot a lot of her first movie, *Sleepless in Seattle*, in NYC. This was filmed entirely in her neighborhood. I think her next one will be done in her living room!”

Thanks, Bruce and Laurent! More about *You’ve Got Mail!*: Used many UWS locations (Cafe Lalo, Zabar’s, H&H Bagel, Gray’s Papaya). Meg Ryan and Greg Kinear’s characters watch a movie in a theater at Loew’s Lincoln Square. That same theater showed the movie when it was released

Readers are invited to send titles to run in future issues.

We hear that the Landmark ’76 association is bemoaning the latest film crew invasion of their block. (Chance sightings of movie stars have their downside.) Could film on the UWS become a running feature?

—Mary Ratcliffe

Plan Ahead

Currently scheduled W75BA events:

- April 2: General Meeting
- April 25: Earth Day, Block Promotion
- May 2: Block Beautification—Columbus to Amsterdam
- June 13: Block Beautification—Columbus to Central Park West
- June 18: General Meeting

W75BA NEWSLETTER

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We welcome contributions from members.

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, 240 West 75th Street, #6A, New York, NY 10023
For more information: info@w75ba.org