



Block Blast 2010

Saturday, September 25, 10 AM – 5 PM
West 75th Street — West End Avenue to Broadway

Yard, rummage, & bake sales ❖ vendors
environmental activities ❖ hybrid vehicle display
bouncy castle for the kids ❖ live music ❖more!

Block Blast 2010... Best Ever!

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY to make this year's Annual BLOCK BLAST the best ever! If you have not put Saturday, September 25, on your calendar, don't waste another minute! Pappardella, West Side Market, Citarella, Manhattan Diner, Viand Café, Fairway, Fusha, and others will be providing our amazing food spread this year. We will have a dog trainer, Filene Day Spa will be giving hand massages, a bouncy castle for the kids, live music, bake sale, activities on the "green," raffle prizes, yard sales, and much more!

Many of you have already reserved your space for the yard sale of the year! If you would like a space be sure to contact Dan at danriber@nmic.org! If you would like to unload items from your home, please donate them to the W75BA rummage table. You can drop items off the day of the event before 10 AM.

Your volunteer time the day of the event is very much appreciated. Contact Dee Rieber at 646-327-1572. See you there!

—Dee Rieber

What's That Grey Box Doing Up There?

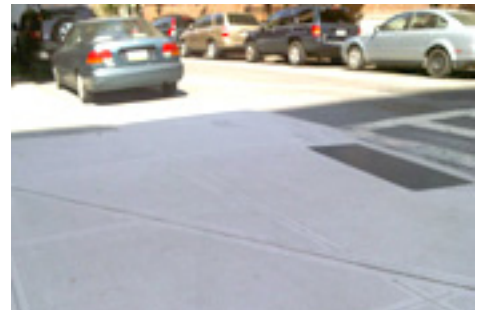
Have you noticed anything different about the lamp post at the north-west corner of 75th Street and West End Avenue? You might not if you're not looking up (understandably so). While walking home about 8:30 PM on the night of August 19, Dee and I noticed two large electricians' trucks parked at the west corners of WEA and 75th attending to a mysterious

Curb Extension on West 75th

In July, West 75th Street received its first Curb Extension, sometimes referred to as a "neckdown." The street improvement is located at the southwest corner of West 75th and West End Avenue.

Because a large number of children, strollers, and the elderly cross at this intersection, the Department of Transportation (DOT), in collaboration with our Block Association, thought it was the best location to start with. We will continue to advocate for safer, greener streets in the neighborhood. Congratulations to all who worked hard on this effort. It is just the beginning.

—Dee Rieber



Our first curb extension was installed at the SW corner of West End Avenue and West 75th Street this summer.

PHOTO: DEE RIEBER

grey rectangular box. Hmm, perhaps some new police surveillance device? Nah, looked nothing like what's out there on Broadway and other places around NYC. Maybe some new DOT street light gizmo? Nope. So I asked the gentleman up in the cherry picker working alongside the box. Turns out it is a cell phone relay device.

Maybe you've seen the cell sites above you on top of buildings or the fake trees alongside the interstates. This box looks



The mysterious grey box

quite different. The gentlemen on the ground told me how this device is supposed to prevent calls being dropped so often. So that sounds

like a good thing, right? Who wouldn't want that; everyone and their pet pug has a cell phone or mobile device. I asked the man if there were many of these new devices around. He said yes, in the Bronx and Queens, but he could not say exactly where else in Manhattan. I am concerned. Up till now cell sites were located at least several stories above the streets. (Although I've seen some as low as one and two stories). However these are located on private property. This device is located on public property. Nobody asked us if it was a good idea or informed us of its installation.

Should we be concerned about the radio frequency (RF) radiation emanating from this device at such a low angle to the street? Is the RF power similar to those that are on taller structures? Should we turn a blind eye and ignore it?

(Continued on page 2)



Linda Rosenthal and Scott Stringer

Safe Streets Press Conference

On Monday, August 2, local residents joined Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer at a press conference to demand safer streets for pedestrians. Of particular interest is the historically treacherous crossing at Broadway and 71st Street where the conference was held.

Linda Rosenthal said, "Conditions are ripe for an accident here at all hours of the day, seven days a week!" Scott Stringer added: "No changes have been made to this intersection, even though accident statistics indicate a need for improvement measures." He went on to say that it would take DOT 30 days to implement the improvements needed at 71st and Broadway. Whereas we enjoy the many improvements that NYC is making to our streets, the question remains why this particular area seems to have been ignored.

—Dee Rieber

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Business Directory

Most people enjoy working with businesses where people they know and trust are in charge. The West 75th Street Block Association is spearheading a directory of not only local established merchants but a guide to residents who provide legitimate services. Many of you own businesses and we want to support your efforts by publishing a directory for local residents. If you would like to highlight your business or service in our Neighbor-to-Neighbor Business Directory, please email Dee Rieber at drieber@halstead.com. Be sure to include your name, description of business or service, years in business and hours of operation. This directory will eventually be linked to our website as well.

—Dee Rieber

What's That Mysterious Grey Box? *continued from page 1*

I think not. So I called 311 and lodged a complaint. Let's see what happens. Should you complain? I leave that up to you to decide whether mysterious grey boxes mounted above your street corner are worth inquiring about. I would say they are. Remember the phrase that entered our lexicon nine years ago, "if you see something say something."

Stay tuned. I will report back as soon as info comes in over the wire.

—Dan Rieber

Energy Gone Up In Smoke

Ever arrived home on a Sunday when finally the heat was down to merely hot and thought... oh I'll take a nap, read a book, finally open a window and get some real un-refrigerated air?

You throw open the window and bask in a breath of cool air, but it's only a moment before a backyard neighbor splatters his charcoal with lighter fluid and drops in a match, and the wild hell of fire blasts up into the air. Your apartment fills with toxic fumes from the fluid and burning charcoal, your only windows are on this backyard. You are trapped in a gas chamber of your neighbors' making, and they do not care. You are forced to flee your own home.

We know we have to stop burning carbon into our environment. I'm buying wind and hydro energy through ConEd (you can, too, by going to ConEdSolutions.com) Responsible government is moving away from coal-burning generating plants; we no longer burn leaves in the streets or our yards, and so too we must stop charring our meat and fish, because if you think breathing in the particulate matter from a car exhaust or from coal-burning electricity generating plants or from your barbecue is bad for you (and it is proven to be very bad for you, carcinogenic among other things), exponentially worse is what you inhale standing over a charcoal grill and then ingesting carbonized protein. Just Google this for the available research.

If you too would like to see New York City change the rules to ensure that everyone uses closed top gas rather than charcoal grills please let us know at info@w75ba.org.

—Eileen Max

Plan Ahead

- September 25: Block Blast 2010
- October 14: General Meeting
- November 2: Election Day Bake Sale

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 _____
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 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