



General Meeting Kill the Drill ! New York's Imperiled Water Supply

Guest: Kate Sinding, National Resource Defense Council
Film: Scenes from Gasland
Thursday, February 17 — 6:45 PM
Manhattan Day School Library, 310 West 75th Street

STILL...Kill The Drill

Hydraulic fracturing—fracking—is the drilling of a horizontal well into shale rock and then using millions of gallons of water and toxic chemicals to fracture it and extract natural gas.

The NYC watershed supplies some of the best drinking water in the country to more than 9 million New Yorkers. Fracking would contaminate it forever! Join us on February 17 to learn more about this threat and *what we can do to save our water*.

The threat has not gone away since we first wrote about it in November 2009. Our watershed sits on top of the Marcellus Shale, a large mineral reserve deposit that oil and gas companies want to drill into. Drilling companies have already leased tens of thousands of acres. If the fracking process pollutes the watershed, the city would have to build a filtration plant at a cost to taxpayers of more than 10 billion dollars.

A moratorium on drilling in NY State expires in June. **Now is the time to mobilize to ban drilling forever.** Public opposition induced the largest leaseholder in the Marcellus Shale, to announce that it “will not drill for natural gas within the NY watershed.” We **can** make a difference.

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer has called fracking the #1 environmental and public health issue facing our city. (search *fracking* on his website: www.mbpo.org).

Don't miss this important meeting! See you on February 17.

—Dee Rieber

Designation of West End Avenue Historic District

After years spearheading the campaign to designate Manhattan's West End Avenue as a historic district, the West End Preservation Society (WEPS) moved one step closer to achieving its mission last year. On November 16, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) unanimously voted to place the proposed West End Avenue

Study Area on its calendar for public hearings.

The LPC has expanded the initial WEPS proposal, and the new boundaries include the neighboring avenues of Riverside Drive, many blocks of the West side of Broadway, and cross streets stretching from Riverside to Broadway from 70th to 109th Streets. Because of the size and the 700+ buildings, the area has been divided into three separate historic district extensions: The West End Collegiate District Extension, Riverside–West End District Extension I, and Riverside–West End District Extension II. Each extension will have its own hearing.

Dates for the public hearings were announced at the end of the year. The first, Riverside–West End District Extension I, is scheduled for March 22.

It will be at these hearings that residents, who have worked so hard toward this goal, will be given a platform to express their support of designation. WEPS

looks forward to seeing you there. It is hoped that designation will protect still vulnerable properties in the area.

For more information, go to <http://westendreservation.org> or email info@westendpreservation.org for more information.

—Dee Rieber

Breathe Deeper on West 75th!

Do you know how buildings make heat and hot water? Most of us have some idea, others no clue and couldn't care less.

Well, the buildings we live in have a few ways to make heat and domestic hot water (DHW). One is to have a central boiler that makes both heat and DHW. Another is to have a boiler for heating and a separate DHW maker. Newer buildings may have dedicated units in each apartment. However it gets done they all have something in common. Fuel!

The most common fuel for heating and making hot water in

(Continued on page 2)

W75BA Participates In MULCHFEST 2011

W75BA participated this year in MULCHFEST, the NYC program that recycles Christmas trees to make mulch for the city's trees and plants. Last year over 24,000 trees were donated and recycled into mulch.



Dee Rieber, W75BA president, with some of the trees collected in MULCHFEST 2011.

On Sunday morning, January 9, we loaded a rented ZIP Truck to collect trees on West 75th and neighboring streets and drove five times to the 81st Street mulching site in Riverside Park. There, hard working NYC Parks Department employees Paul Evans and Kate Willson were standing by to receive our donation with smiles. Big thanks to the Parks Department for their efforts!

Fifty abandoned Christmas trees along West 75th Street were recycled into mulch for our gardens in the spring. Sanitation will also be recycling the rest of trees left on the sidewalk after the holidays. They have been busy playing “catch up” lately. If you still have garbage or recycling on your block, call 311! It works!

MULCHFEST on West 75th will be an annual event!

—Dee Rieber



Annual W75BA Holiday Potluck Party



Wine and dessert social at Pour Wines

PHOTOS: DEE RIEBER

Holiday Celebrations on West 75th Street

Neighbors braved the winter chill to celebrate the holidays at the W75BA annual potluck party on December 15. As is our custom, we voted that evening on the local charities to receive our 2010 donations:

- West Side Campaign Against Hunger: \$300
- City Meals on Wheels: \$200

On December 5, neighbors gathered at Pour Wines on Amsterdam Avenue for a wine and dessert social hosted by Dee Rieber.

- 145 Central Park West is also using No. 6
 - Buildings on West 75th using No. 4 heating oil: 245, 100 and 15
- We encourage shareholders to urge your buildings to use No. 2 heating oil for a cleaner, greener block.
- And we applaud 240 West 75th, which is already using it!

—Dan Rieber

Food and Thought on W75

As part of a 2011 initiative, W75BA will host periodic lectures on topics chosen by the membership. The lectures will take place on Sunday afternoons at 4 PM and conclude with a meal.

Our hope is to schedule at least two lectures in 2011, the first on Sunday, March 20, at 240 West 75th Street. Palestinian writer and director Fida Quishta will show and speak about her new documentary film, *Where Should the Birds Fly*, set in the Gaza Strip.

The screening will be followed by a discussion and a delicious Mid-Eastern meal. RSVP to (212) 724-0929 or dddinernyc@gmail.com.

Membership Profile 2010

- New Members..... 37
 - Renewal Members 39
 - Active Members Total..... 112
- Membership breakdown:
 Building Sponsor, 4 / Community, 2 / Merchant Sponsor, 2 / Family, 27 / Individual, 77

Finances, 2010

- Income\$2,493.00
- Dues1,540.00
- Block Party1,048.00
- Contributions 355.00
- Expenses.....\$2,095.73
- Block Party 909.98
- Postage 503.36
- Supplies..... 271.43
- Planting Days 178.99
- Website 104.25
- Refreshments.....80.00
- Marketing47.69

Plan Ahead

- February 17: General Meeting
- April 7: General Meeting
- May 14: Planting Day 1

W75BA Newsletter

Editor: Mary Ratcliffe
 Contributors: Dee Rieber, Dan Rieber
 Design & Layout: Mary Ratcliffe
 Color Printing: Halstead Property LLC

We welcome contributions from members.

Breath Deeper on West 75th

(Continued from page 1)

Manhattan is oil. There are three major types of heating oil used in NYC. No. 2, No. 4 and No. 6.

No. 6, or bunker oil, is very heavy and thick, almost like tar. It must be preheated before burning. It is very dirty, however, and when burnt gives off lots of particulate matter that falls back to the ground and makes for bad air quality.

Why is it used? Because it is cheaper. No. 4 is a combination of No. 6 and No. 2. It is not as thick as No. 6, needs less preheating, and is a bit more expensive than No. 6 oil. Both require very good superintendents to maintain these systems.

No. 2 oil is basically what we call diesel fuel, except when burned in houses or buildings it is dyed so that road (vehicles) diesel and home heating oil are not combined. No. 2 oil is the most expensive of three fuel oils, but it is also the cleanest and requires much less maintenance.

If buildings were to convert from No. 4 or No. 6 to No. 2 oil, they would pay more for fuel, but less in

maintaining the system. If natural gas were to be used, then maintenance would be *much* less; cost would be dependent on the gas market pricing. Burning natural gas is the cleanest of the fuels in terms of particulate matter and clean air issues. Ask your super to find out how clean and green your heating system is.

Starting in October of next year, legislation will require buildings burning No. 4 oil to use the low-sulfur kind, which emits 40 percent less soot pollution than No. 6. There is pressure from environmental groups to require No.-6-oil-burning buildings to switch to the new low-sulfur No. 4 oil between next year and 2015. No. 2 heating oil is an even cleaner solution.

Many buildings on West 75th Street are using the No. 6 and No. 4 (slightly cleaner than No. 6) heating oils. W75BA looked into which buildings are using the less “green” heating oils. This is what we learned:

- Buildings on West 75th Street using No. 6 heating oil: 304, 250, 164, 161, 57
- Buildings on West End Avenue using No. 6: 320, 325

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