



## ANNUAL BLOCK BLAST— A GREEN CELEBRATION ON W75!

**Buffet ❖ Entertainment ❖ Games ❖ Raffle  
Rummage Sales ❖ Bake Sale ❖ Special Guests**

**When:** Saturday, September 12, 10 A.M.–5 P.M.

**Where:** West 75th Street, Broadway to West End Avenue

**A**S SUMMER 2009 draws to a close, we prepare for our annual Block Blast on September 12. It's an eagerly anticipated and surefire hit with the neighborhood, and you won't want to miss it.

Here's the lineup for the day as we go to press:

- 10:00 AM–5:00 PM: Designated bike lane for the kids! Open all day! Bring scooters, bikes, helmets. We'll provide the freeway!
- 10:30–11:15 AM: Yoga. Bring your mat and start the day off on the right foot!
- 11:15 AM–12:15 PM: Lunch, with grilled burgers and hot dogs by Sid Gupta, owner of Pappardella and Mughlai, and tasty fare from other local restaurants and from residents.
- 11:15 AM–1:00 PM: Livable Streets has lots of fun planned for the kids!
- 12:15–1:00 PM: Dog training demonstration: Come get some great tips from a real pro!
- 1:00–2:00 PM: Project Find returns with belly dancing and tai chi
- 2:00–4:00 PM: Tru Blu returns with their rockin' music to rock the block!
- Fire Department truck: Unless, of course, there is a fire!
- Rummage and bake sale tables (donations of your castoffs and tempting baked treats are welcome!)
- Raffle prizes given by local merchants
- Meet some of the candidates running for office this fall.

Other organizations joining us will include CERT (Community Emergency Response Team, a program, sponsored

by the NYC Office of Emergency Management), where civilian volunteers are trained in emergency response procedures, and methods, to support first responders during natural, or man made, catastrophies.

**Save the date:** Saturday, September 12. And if you can volunteer to help, let us know, [info@w75ba.org](mailto:info@w75ba.org)!

—Dee Rieber

### Third Annual Fair Will Benefit Elephant Playground

September is here. That means it is almost the end of summer, and schools are about to start. It is also time for the Third Annual Elephant Playground Fair. This year the fundraiser will be held on September 27 from 11 AM–3 PM at the basketball courts and Neufeld "Elephant" Playground at West 76th Street in Riverside Park.

The fair is the brainchild of Karen Benett, a West 75th Street resident who uses this playground with her twin daughters. Three years ago, she noticed the equipment was becoming rundown and the concrete needed more of a soft safety surface, like other playgrounds in the city. She approached the Riverside Park Fund about raising money for renovations and proposed a fair like Hippo Playground's annual event. The Fund suggested that she talk with Gale Brewer, District 6 Council Member, about what was needed to get this idea rolling.

After this conversation, Benett reached out to some neighbors in her building (including me) to assist her in running the event. In the past few years, we have enlisted local businesses to sponsor the inflatables/moonbounces, carnival games, and craft tables and local restaurants to donate food and drinks for us to sell at

the fair. Face painters, balloon artists, and musical acts have performed at past fairs, which have attracted as many as 1,750 adults and children.

This year we have new attractions that include a trackless train, a spin art table, and an additional craft table. Entertainment will be provided by a magician, Loonie Louie, and Ibble Bible and Stewso with a variety show.

Our goal is to raise \$300,000 for the proposed work. The two previous fairs raised a combined \$30,000. An additional \$150,000



*Kids and their families enjoy the Elephant Playground.*

PHOTO: SCOT STEINBERG

has been donated from public monies, thanks to City Council Member Gale Brewer, and we have secured \$30,000 from other sources. Please contact [www.riversideparkfund.org](http://www.riversideparkfund.org) if you would like to make a donation.

We also need volunteers to help from 9AM–11AM (set up), 11AM–1PM, or 1–3PM. If you are interested please contact [m\\_cave@yahoo.com](mailto:m_cave@yahoo.com).

Hope to see you at the fair!

—Scot Steinberg

### Neighborhood Crime Report

It was noted at a recent 20th Precinct Council meeting that identity theft is up 225 percent in the neighborhood. People are rummaging through the garbage for envelopes, discarded mail, etc., and finding a treasure trove of your personal information. Advice: Get a shredder! Many of us have trash cans conveniently placed near our mailrooms for easy disposal of unwanted junk mail. Be careful what you discard there!

There were also reports in June of burglaries in the neighborhood. Joseph Bolanos, president of the Landmark 76

*continued on page 2*



*Street scene: Block Blast 2008*

## W75BA Beautification Awards '09

Congratulations to winners of our annual block beautification awards. These buildings were singled out by members for having done an outstanding job with their gardens and window boxes this year:

33 Riverside Drive, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 57, 21, 105, 107, 137, 156, 161, 219, 250, 310 West End Avenue, and these merchants: Gotham Gardens, Pappardella Restaurant, Mughlai Restaurant, and Beacon Paint and Hardware.

## Landmark West! Will Honor "Unsung Heroes" of Historic Preservation

Landmark West! will present its annual awards to individuals and institutions for their work in protecting the special character of our city's neighborhoods at La Palestra Center for Preventative Medicine, 11 West 67th Street, Thursday, October 8, 7 PM-9 PM. Food and drink will be provided by *Bon Appetit's* 2008 Chef of the Year, Michael Psilakis.

Honors for 2009 go to P.S. 199; Albert K. Butzel, Esq.; First Church of Christ, Scientist; 110 West 78th Street; Save the Beacon Theatre; and Seekircher Steel Window Repair.

Advance tickets are required (\$50-\$500). Call (212) 496-8110 or email [landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org](mailto:landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org) to purchase. Credit cards are accepted.



PHOTO: DEE RIEBER

W75BA member Mary Beth Coudal and her children, Hayden, Kathryn and Charlotte, grabbed their bikes when the West Side Highway was closed to traffic for the July 4 fireworks.

## Neighborhood Crime Report

*continued from page 1*  
Park Block Association issued a report to that group, and we reprint a portion of it here.

**B**E ADVISED that there was a burglary on our block in June. A main floor, front apartment... was forcibly accessed by crowbarring and snapping the deadbolt lock. The perpetrator took cash, jewelry, and two laptop computers.

Upon discovering the burglary, the victim called 911. Three patrol cars, two investigating detectives, and a fingerprint team arrived at the scene. **The good news: the burglar has since been arrested and some of the stolen property recovered.**

One burglary does not a crime wave make, but there are lessons to be learned from such incidents. Some 20 months ago, a man gained access into a main floor front apartment on the block. The resident was in the shower at the time. When she detected the individual in her living room, she screamed loudly enough to scare off the intruder,

who had gained access into the building by carrying a box like a delivery man and getting someone to hold the door open for him!

**Recommendations:** Please do not panic. We are a safe block. But your vigilance is important, and it is effective!

Please **do** be aware, and alert, of



PHOTO: DAN RIEBER

The neighborhood had the opportunity to meet and greet officers of the 20th Precinct, learn about crime prevention, at National Night Out Against Crime on August 4.

your surroundings when coming home from work. Cellphone use, MP3 players, etc. can be distracting and create an opportunity for predators.

Stay alert of your surroundings at all times when walking on the block.

If you see someone suspicious following you or standing in your vestibule do **not** enter your building! Call 911.

If you are home during the day and hear unusual noise in your hallway, do **not** leave your apartment. Use your peephole to view the hall, if possible.

Most important, if you're not expecting a delivery at home do **not** buzz anyone into the building.

Finally...one of the best deterrents against a forcible entry like the above is the installation of an L-bar along the exterior edge of your apartment door. The L-Bar is installed along the edge of the door frame and door, covering the door seam where the door meets the frame. The L-Bar deters the use of a crowbar to wedge between the frame and door for leverage.

It's not a guarantee against an entry, but it's a proven deterrent. Our thanks to Joe for sharing this report with us.

—Dee Rieber

### WEST 75TH STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION CENTRAL PARK WEST TO RIVERSIDE DRIVE [www.w75ba.org](http://www.w75ba.org) / [info@w75ba.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@w75ba.org)

## Plan Ahead

*Currently scheduled W75BA events:*

- Sept. 12: Annual Block Party
- Oct. 15: General Meeting

### W75BA NEWSLETTER

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*We welcome contributions from members.*