



General Meeting

■ All About Green Living—What the Experts Say

Special Guests: Gotham Gardens  
Green Keepers from Goddard Riverside

■ Block Beautification Awards

When: Thursday, June 18, 6:45 P.M.

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

**We're All About Green Living**

**G**OING GREEN HAS been the focus of W75BA activities all year, whether it's making earth-friendly choices at our block parties or turning our West 75th Street corridor into one of the city's "garden districts."

At this last meeting before our annual street fair in September\*, special guests from Gotham Gardens and from Green Keepers (a Goddard Riverside group), will give us tips on what more we can do, how to do it all better.

Also, Beautification Awards will be presented for outstanding efforts on our street this year. (Send your candidates—individual residents, superintendents, buildings, co-ops—[info@w75ba.org](mailto:info@w75ba.org)).

*\*Annual Block Party on Saturday, September 12, 10–5 PM, on West 75th between WEA and Broadway! SAVE THE DATE!*

**A Dab of Conservation**

Good ideas never die; like perennials, they keep coming back. Dan Rieber came across this in a newspaper clipping from the 1960s.

"Conservation can be as little as a window box full of petunias on a busy city street or as big as Grand Canyon National Park. But when we think of the problems involved—junk yards, billboards, filthy rivers, air pollution—we're ready to throw up our hands and retreat to our own backyards.

"Oddly enough that's the place to start—your own back yard. If a block of neighbors on a city street holds a contest for the prettiest window box, that means a more beautiful America."

**W75BA Wins Approval for Curb Extensions!**

We are happy to report that our resolution for curb extensions on West 75th Street was passed by CB 7 in an almost unanimous vote on May 5.!

This is exciting news, and we will begin the process of establishing some temporary measures while the permanent extensions are explored further. (We have

applied for a \$2,000 Federal Highway Research Grant for our street safety efforts.)

Our strong advocacy has brought pedestrian street safety issues to the forefront. Everyone is to be commended for their role in this effort, with special thanks to Chris Greeno and Batya Lewyn, who testified on our behalf!

**Crime Is Down on the UWS**

Despite concerns that when the economy tanked, crime might escalate, the numbers are instead down for burglaries, robberies, car thefts, and other crimes. That was the reassuring news from Chief Inspector Keith Spadaro, commanding officer of the 20th Precinct.



PHOTO: DEE RIEBER

Chief Inspector Keith Spadaro, commanding officer of the of the 20th Precinct, donned a W75BA cap and smiled for the camera at our April meeting.

During the lively Q&A session, members remarked on the precinct's swift, courteous response to 911 calls. This was exemplified by one member's experience when it looked as if his young son had gone missing, and the police were unsparing in their efforts not only to find the boy (and yes, he turned up!) but to be supportive to the parents in their fright and anxiety. Spadaro expressed pride in his men. He added that West Siders are alert, savvy citizens who notice suspicious activity and don't hesitate to it. That's a help in keeping the statistics favorable. He then us these direct numbers: (212) 580-6411, and for community affairs, (212) 580-6428.

In a sidebar discussion, a member cited her own unhappy experience and warned us to be alert at Fairway's checkout registers and to review register receipts before leaving the vicinity; under the new ownership, overcharges have been not uncommon..

— Mary Ratcliffe



**W75BA Expands Street Beautification Program**

Our beautification program is growing. This year we added a second block to the program, and W75BA volunteers planted tree bed gardens from Broadway to Amsterdam and from Columbus to Central Park West.

Beautification days on May 2 and June 13 were a big success! We signed up 16 new members and made countless new friends, among them several of the "furry" variety! (Visit them on our Pet Corner at [www.w75ba.org](http://www.w75ba.org)!

Big thanks to Jessica Cohen\*, Geoff Collins\*, Patience Freeman, David Kovitt\*, Caroline Lavitt\*, Ellen Maguire\*, Dan Rieber, and Vicki Sutton for their wonderful energy and



PHOTO: DEE RIEBER

David Kovitt came out to help plant on May 2 and became a member, too.

"green thumbs" and to Suzanne Jacobson for donating some of the flowers! We also thank Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal for coming by on Saturday to support the event!

\*new members

## News from Merchant Members

- Apthorp Cleaners has reopened on Amsterdam between 78th and 79th Streets. Apthorp is one of the many small businesses that was forced out of their location on Broadway when the landlord demanded an outrageous rent increase. They've been doing business on the UWS since 1982, and we are happy to see them still here at their new address. Check their Web site (<http://apthorpcleaners.com>), and of course delivery and pick-up services are available.
- Pappardella's has opened a gelato/sorbet stand, SW corner of 75th and Columbus. Also, the eatery now has free wi-fi for patrons who choose to while away the workday after the M-Th prix fixe brunch. And to whet your appetites for fall, Pappardella has committed to donating their grilling capability to our September block party.
- Beacon Paint & Hardware commits to "green" with new biodegradable drop cloths, bags made of corn starch that you'd never guess aren't plastic, and compact florescent bulbs (there'll be a demo at the general meeting)..



Steve Stark checking stock records at eco-friendly Beacon Paint & Hardware, a W75BA member and supporter

PHOTO: CHRIS GREENO

End Avenue (95th–96th Streets). He is rushing to tear down these lovely buildings ahead of any possible calendaring of the proposed Historic District designation of West End Avenue. After the buildings are gone, the empty lots will sit—an open wound. W75BA sent the following message to Mayor Bloomberg.

"Time is of the essence, two more townhouses on West End (732 and 734) between 95th and 96th Streets have been granted demolition permits and will be torn down momentarily. We understand that Mr. Sackman wishes to demolish the buildings now,

to avoid the possibility of West End Avenue becoming an Historic District. We also understand that he does not plan to begin construction in the immediate future.

We urge you to order the Department of Buildings to rescind those demolition permits. The safeguards that will be put in place are reportedly grossly inadequate to ensure that 736 WEA, which has a common wall with 734 WEA, will not be damaged."

Here's what *you* can do:

- Write a letter to:  
Hon. Robert B. Tierney, Chair  
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre St., 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10007
- E-mail: [comments@lpc.nyc.gov](mailto:comments@lpc.nyc.gov)
- Call: (212) 669-7888 and tell the Landmarks Preservation Commission that you support the West End Preservation Society's Proposal to designate West End Avenue, from 70th Street to 107th Street, a Historic District.

—Dee Rieber

## We Celebrate Earth Day and Promote the W75BA



We celebrated Earth Day on April 25 by promoting W75BA at a table on Broadway. Seated, WHO, BA president Dee Rieber, (l.) Harriet Hochberg, and Vicki Sutton came out to help. Juan Luna, a new member, introduced us to Paco and Luna. For a handsome closeup of the dogs sunning themselves on their terrace see [www.w75ba.org/pet-corner.htm](http://www.w75ba.org/pet-corner.htm). (Send us a photo of your pet for the Web site's Pet Corner at [info@w75ba.org](mailto:info@w75ba.org).)



## Don't Let the Upper West Side Go South!

The West End Preservation Society has requested that New York City's Landmarks Preservation Commission extend the existing historic districts of WEA to include the length of the Avenue from 70th to 107th Street. The goal: to ensure that the architecture and ambience of West End Avenue will endure for generations to come, even in the face of major development.

*That effort is already in danger from developers.* It is reported that Alan Sackman does not plan to build for two years, but scaffolding has gone up around 732 and 734 West

### 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:

- June 13: Block Beautification—Columbus to Central Park West
- June 18: General Meeting
- Sept. 12: Annual Block Party

### W75BA NEWSLETTER

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Color Printing: Halstead Property LLC

*We welcome contributions from members.*