



## Green Team Forming for Neighborhood Energy Conservation

By Alan Leidner

Like many of you who live within the boundaries of our Block Association, I am aware and concerned about the effects of global warming and heeding the call from leaders in the environmental movement. Now is the time for us to “act locally.” While I’m not an expert in these matters, it seems clear that there are things we could be doing both individually and as a community to lower our carbon profile. An added benefit of cutting our use of energy would be reduced energy costs.

For example: replacing incandescent bulbs with low-energy lighting can lower energy use significantly and the additional cost can be quickly recovered. In my own apartment I’ve begun to do this and am already realizing a saving on my electric bill.

We could all go about reducing our energy use individually and hope that others join in because we all watch the same save-the-earth concerts, are loyal Sierra Club members and read the *NY Times*’ editorial page. But it would probably be more fun and more effective to form a group promoting energy conservation measures in our community. By involving local experts and dividing up the research, we could probably arrive at better solutions than if we were operating alone. We could even organize mass buys—of the best low-

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# The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association *NEWSLETTER*

## Complaints and Cooperation Improve Quality of Life

By Molly Sugarman

Capt. Kathleen O’Reilly, commander of the 24th Precinct, has risen to the challenge hurled at her by irate residents at the precinct’s Community Council meeting in June: clean up quality-of-life violations and the *laissez-faire* attitude of your officers. But she didn’t do it alone. Community Board 7, block associations, businesses and the Parks Department helped her.

When bombarded with complaints about excessive noise, barbecuing on the sidewalk, partying late into the night, public urination and snarly police officers, O’Reilly told the crowd that quality-of-life issues were “top priority” and that the disinterest of officers was “not acceptable.”

The irritated, disgruntled and downright angry members of the crowd came from two areas within the 24th’s jurisdiction: W. 92nd St. between Central Park West and Columbus Ave. and W. 109th St. at Amsterdam Ave.

The W. 92nd St. complaints centered around a public park that summer had converted into an all-night street party. “The music, yelling and screaming starts at 5 a.m., and on weekends, the barbeque pit is wheeled out,” one W. 92nd St. resident said. “At 2 or 3 a.m., the ball is bouncing in the basketball court.” Another said, “Crowds are in front of the playground, 50 to 60 people, urinating on the street, with open

containers and barbeques.”

Residents of W. 109th St. were joined by bar-owners and a building superintendent in their complaints about loud street parties that kept residents awake and caused potential customers to go elsewhere.

Adding to the frustration, residents of both areas reported numerous anecdotes of patrol officers who made no effort to break up illegal gatherings or to ticket double-parked cars that provide booming sound for parties or to arrest those carrying open containers. Officers reportedly told residents they had more important things to do. One W. 109th St. resident told O’Reilly that when a frustrated woman poured water on the crowd below her window at 3 a.m., officers chastised the woman but let the party rock on.

“Give me the opportunity to deal with it for a week,” O’Reilly said, adding that foot patrols throughout the precinct

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### **BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

Regular Block Association meetings are held twelve times a year, usually on the second Tuesday of every month.

TIME: 8:00 p.m.  
PLACE: 306 W. 102nd St.

The next three meetings are scheduled for Sept. 11, Oct. 9 and Nov. 13.

# Serious Flavors Abound at Casual Thai Market

By Terence Hanrahan

**Q**: Why walk all the way to Amsterdam Avenue for Thai food when there are two well-established restaurants of the same ilk right on Broadway? **A**: Because dining at **Thai Market** offers an altogether different sort of experience, one that's a cut above what we're accustomed to.

The change is noticeable as soon as you walk in. The décor creates a bustling Bangkok market via photographic mural wallpaper, touches of gold leaf, street signs, umbrellas, simple yet effective lighting, and imported tableware. A menu that suggests an old Thai newsletter furthers the effect.

In the course of one on-site dinner and one meal delivered very promptly despite inclement weather, we sampled several appetizers. The Thai Market crêpe is a delicious puffy rice version of the French pancake filled with minced shrimp, coconut and cilantro. The Thai green salad was good, but spiced hotter than we'd anticipated given its starless

ranking. (Menu items are ranked according to heat, with three stars indicating the spiciest choices.) The delicate wrappers of steamed Thai dumplings are stuffed with minced chicken, preserved radish and peanuts; the starless dish was as mild as you would expect. Two-star grilled sliced skirt steak salad featured mint, red onion and roasted rice and was hot enough to have us reaching for handkerchiefs. It's a steal at \$4. (Appetizers range from \$2 to \$6.)

In the entrée category, we enjoyed the Siam duck, half a duck boned, sliced and presented on a bed of bok choy with a honey plum ginger sauce and signature straw mushroom rice. A soft shell crab special was served with curried rice and sautéed vegetables. It carried a reasonable market price of \$14. When we decided to go for broke, heat-wise, the choice was the three-star Pad Kee Moa (flat rice noodles, chicken, Thai basil, bird's eye chili, tomato and bok choy). Maybe our taste buds were seared beyond use by that point, but the dish didn't seem as hot as the skirt

steak salad. (Main courses are priced between \$8 and \$14.)

Although we admit to skipping dessert, on the night we ate at Thai Market, we saw others around us enjoying Thai ice cream, tapioca pearl in coconut pudding and black sticky rice with taro cake. (Desserts are \$4 each). Thai iced tea (\$3) and a selection of sodas bargain-priced at a buck apiece went well with our meal.

Portion sizes at Thai Market are ample but not so huge that you will be taking home doggie bags. More importantly, across the board the flavors in every dish we ate were clean and distinctive, the ingredients sometimes unusual and always fresh. That cloying sweetness that sometimes characterizes local Thai food was entirely absent. Our neighborhood needs an authentic Thai restaurant and this one's well worth the stroll beyond our immediate area and back.

Caveat Emptor: Thai Market does not take reservations. When we arrived on a weeknight at 6:45, we got one of the

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## From Quirky to Collectible: West 104th St. Yard Sale Is Coming!

**A**s the days get cooler, and the air crisper, orange flyers dot the Bloomingdale area: the West 104th St. Yard Sale is just around the corner. On **Saturday, Sept. 29** (raindate Sept. 30), from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the block from West End Ave. to Riverside Dr. will fill with more than 60 vendors selling everything from Depression-era glass to children's outgrown toys. It will be a day of great live music, fun finds and delicious food.

Come visit the block association bake table, have a hamburger or hot dog to order, browse the book table (a must for

mystery lovers), bid in the Silent Auction, buy a ticket for the split-the-pot raffle and check out the newest offering: a Great Bargains table. Don't miss this amazing array of whatnots and steals (you always needed a stuffed squirrel), all for under \$10! Or rent a space for \$51 and sell your own items. Spaces go fast so sign up online today at W. 104th St.'s website, [www.bloomingdale.org](http://www.bloomingdale.org).

The Yard Sale has been a W. 104th St. tradition for 18 years. Like our neighborhood, it's welcoming, quirky, and relaxed. Drop by for a few minutes—or a few hours. We'd love to say hi!

### The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association Newsletter

Published four times a year.  
**Hedy Campbell and David L. Reich**, co-editors. Comments and questions related to the Association or Newsletter are welcomed. Send US Mail to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025 or email to [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org). Phone messages may be left at (212) 866-5769. Faxes may be sent to (212) 866-5916. Recent issues of the Newsletter may be viewed at [//www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm](http://www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm)

## Resident Breathes New Life into Ghosts and Ghouls

The Block Association is pleased to announce that Stacey Lauren, a resident of the neighborhood for several years, as agreed to help organize the annual Halloween Parade, which will take place, as usual, on Halloween, Wednesday, October 31. Watch for posters announcing specifics such as time and location in mid-October.

Let's not spook Stacey by leaving her on her own. Instead, give her a call to offer your help (212-678-1987). If you live in a brownstone, you can decorate your stoop and/or be on hand to pass out candy. Or, station yourself along the parade route in the costume of your choice (or in regular garb) and cheer for the children as they pass by. Donate baked goods. Purchase cider, cups or napkins. Help pack trick or treat bags. Lend a hand to provide post-parade entertainment. Help decorate before the party or be part of the clean-up squad. You'll find the job that's right for you before you can say boo!

## Green Team Forming for Energy Conservation

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energy light bulbs, for instance—getting low prices and involving more of our neighbors.

Other ideas that might be worth pursuing include switching to renewable energy sources and identifying improved roof treatments and boiler tech-

## Notes from the 24th Precinct

By Molly Sugarman

### Community Council, June 20

Police presence throughout the 24th Precinct will increase, according to Capt. Kathleen O'Reilly, due to increased staff – 17 new officers from the most recent academy classes – and a program called the Community Patrol Program that requires officers to get out of their patrol cars and talk to people for at least part of their shift.

A neighbor of the women's shelter at 211 W. 101st St. complained that men were being let into the building via the fire escape and that possibly illegal activities – sales of sneakers – were taking place in the alley next to the shelter. Management of the building does not respond, the speaker said. While the police can deal with illegal activities, O'Reilly suggested that city agencies and block associations get together to deal with non-police issues.

The next Precinct Community Council meeting will be at 7 p.m., Sept. 19 at 151 West 100th St., 2nd floor. At that

meeting, narcotics officers will discuss drug programs and problems. All are welcome to attend.

### Crime Report

On Monday, July 2 at about 9:25 p.m. on W. 102nd St., between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave., a man was robbed as he and his daughter approached Broadway. Two young men came up behind the pair, according to Betsy Gonzalez, 24th Precinct Community Affairs officer. One stuck his hand into the victim's pocket, taking his wallet. Then the two attackers ran off toward Amsterdam Ave. No witnesses have come forward nor has an arrest been made, she said.

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# Manhattan Forestry Out on a Limb for Safety

Who even knew there was a Manhattan Forestry unit in the New York City Department of Parks? When a tree in Riverside Park adjacent to the Riverside Drive service road near W. 102nd St. was seen to be leaning dangerously over the roadway, the first thought of this resident was to call 311.

The tree was later identified as a mulberry, perhaps 75 years old. It was growing as two trunks, each about 18 inches in diameter, diverging at the ground. The night before had been very windy and now the branches from one trunk were leaning ominously over the scaffolding at 299 Riverside Drive and brushing cars and trucks passing by.

The 311 operator was glad to fill out a form, which would be sent on to the Parks Department who would act on

the request within 30 days. With a tree limb weighing thousands of pounds poised to do serious damage, a faster response seemed necessary. There was no way, according to the operator, to make direct contact with the Parks Department.

Fortunately, that's not correct. Entering "riverside administrator" into the search box on [nycgovparks.org](http://nycgovparks.org) yielded a link to administrator John Herrold's direct phone number. Alas, the call went to his voice mail but another call to the main office number, also found on that website, yielded the advice "call Manhattan Forestry at (212) 860-1845."

Within two hours, the sounds of a chain saw and a massive wood chipper were reverberating through the neighborhood. With one worker high in the

basket of a "cherry picker" and three more on the ground feeding the chipper, the parts of the tree overhanging the roadway were methodically cut down and made into mulch.

As the last section to be cut was just above the fence, the guy with the chain saw deftly maneuvered his bucket under the piece, completed the cut so the log rested on the bucket, pirouetted the bucket away from the fence and tossed the log into the middle of the street as if it were a twig. The other workers wrestled it into the chipper where it disappeared in a great roar.

Finally, the leaf rake and leaf blower were brought out to clean up the sidewalk and roadway. Then the Manhattan Forestry crew drove off, still unknown to most New Yorkers.

## New Attention to Idling Buses on W. 103rd St.

It's an aggravation that has driven people to move away from the block of W. 103rd St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. Every day, when the Children's Learning Center (formerly Babies Prep) at #310 is in session, school buses, large and small, pull into the street to drop off or pick up the young children who go to school there. Often, several buses are lined up and they can stand there, motors running, for 10 to 30 minutes, spewing exhaust fumes and noise into the block. (It is illegal to idle more than 3 minutes.)

Two residents are trying to do something about this situation. KC Rice and Peter Frishauf recently contacted the Block Association to enlist our help. Peter sent us photos identifying the bus company as G.V.C. Ltd. We did some research and found that the New York City Department of Education has an Office of Pupil Transportation, which monitors school bus companies. OPT's website lists Brian Nolan as the inves-

tigator of complaints about bus drivers and provides his phone number.

KC called Nolan who referred her to Field Operations Inspector Sherman James, for whom she left a phone message. In short order, James called back, listened to the complaint and then conferenced in Chris Malstrom, a manager at G.V.C. That in itself was a remarkable response. Malstrom went on to say that the school had called the bus company as a result of complaints from neighbors. He said that the drivers had been spoken to about curbing the excessive idling.

When told that the problem continues to plague the block, Malstrom asked to be called at (718) 822-0638 when an illegally idling bus is observed. The caller should note the identifying number displayed on the back of the bus.

The school has not been in session since that offer, so no buses have been observed. We'll know shortly if the bus company will keep its promise.

## Landmark West! Volunteers Conduct Building Survey

Do you know your quoin from your spandrel? Block Association members Avery Hudson, Eve Sinaiko, Jane van Schaardenburg and Molly Sugarman do because they have volunteered to survey the buildings in our neighborhood for the Landmark West! database. With their own digital cameras and LW! forms, they have each gone down a block photographing, and noting in detail, the features of all the buildings on the street. Avery was fascinated to see his neighborhood as never before. The community involvement was really satisfying for Jane.

More information on the 96th-110th Street Survey Project is available when you visit [landmarkwest.org](http://landmarkwest.org). Then, join the volunteer survey crew! With just a few free hours, you can make a huge contribution to this project. Contact Cristiana Peña at (212) 496-8110 or at [cap2148@columbia.edu](mailto:cap2148@columbia.edu) to set up an orientation session and get underway.

# Former Board Member Decides It's Time for a Change

If you've lived in the neighborhood for any length of time, chances are your path has crossed with Rosalyn Cherry's. She's been a cheerful, positive-thinking fixture on our blocks for 31 of her 37 years as a New York City resident! Regrettably for us, but wonderfully for her, Rosalyn has given up her apartment, declared her semi-retirement and started making plans to kick off the next phase of her life. Although she has yet to determine the specifics, her plans include relocation to the Hud-

son Valley, where "she's visited often and has met people and become friendly all over the area." That's precisely what Rosalyn does wherever she goes.

A native of Philadelphia and Cherry Hill and Camden, New Jersey, Rosalyn made her way to our blocks by way of the Upper East Side. Along the way, she's worked as a junior high school math teacher, a computer consultant, a licensed massage therapist, a professional organizer and, most recently, as the developer of the Clutter Master Kit,

which she describes as "a basic action system for helping people let go of their stuff." The Clutter Kit is the only thing standing in the way of Rosalyn's complete retirement. She's committed to completing its redesign and plans to see it successfully launched.

As a Block Association board member practically from the organization's inception, Rosalyn has been responsible for initiating a variety of projects in the community. The annual outing to a Pan Asian Repertory Theatre production is the most recent among them. "I've met the most incredible people I would have never met had I not been on the board of the Block Association," she recalls. She has also been a member of Three Parks Independent Democrats. Rosalyn expects to continue spending time on volunteer work of a political nature once she's settled.

Rosalyn's immediate plans include travel to visit family and friends in various places near (Brooklyn) and far (Colorado, Florida and Minnesota). Their gain will be our loss. Rosalyn, we wish you good luck and happiness.

## Noise and Dust Bedevil Block in Flurry of Projects

The active real estate market and the normal toll of age on our neighborhood's buildings have combined to create an unusually great amount of construction activity on W. 102nd St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. The noise and dust generated by the work has caused nearby residents to wonder: when will this be over? Here are some answers, from west to east.

At 299 Riverside Dr., the disturbance comes from the repointing project. This work was drawn out because the previous contractor messed up and put mortar where it should not have been. Now it's being removed and the pointing completed. After complaints from block residents, the current contractor has worked to reduce the dust and there now seems to be significant improvement in that area. The work on the W. 102nd St. facade should be completed by the time this Newsletter is distributed. Then it will shift to the Riverside Dr. side for another three to four weeks.

At 300 Riverside Dr., the boiler is being replaced necessitating the temporary boiler operating out of the trailer on the street, which as actually quite quiet. On the other hand, one day in late August there was a very noisy truck on the street just behind the boiler truck. It was labeled "A & L Cesspool Service," raising questions of what was going on.

It turns out they were pumping out mud that had collected in the boiler room during the boiler replacement project.

According to Izzy, the super, there is more facade work to be done, which is waiting on permits from New York City. Once begun, the facade work is expected to be completed this fall.

One reason for the continuing presence of dumpsters on the block is that two brownstones are being converted back to single family homes. On both sites, a multi-story extension is being built in back of the original structure. At least the rock excavation at 320, complete with jack hammers and motorized compressors, is over. Across the street at 309 there has been a lot of excavation and removal of dirt and rock by hand, as there was at 320, adding to the noise as it was dumped into the bins. The noise level at both those sites should be decreasing as the work moves indoors but, at 320, the rear structure has yet to be completed. 309 is expected to be occupied in October.

At 306, the Addiction Institute (St. Luke's House), the final phase of the major renovation, replacement of windows, was underway at the end of August and should be finished when you read this. That was the reason for yet another dumpster on the street (for the old windows, etc.).

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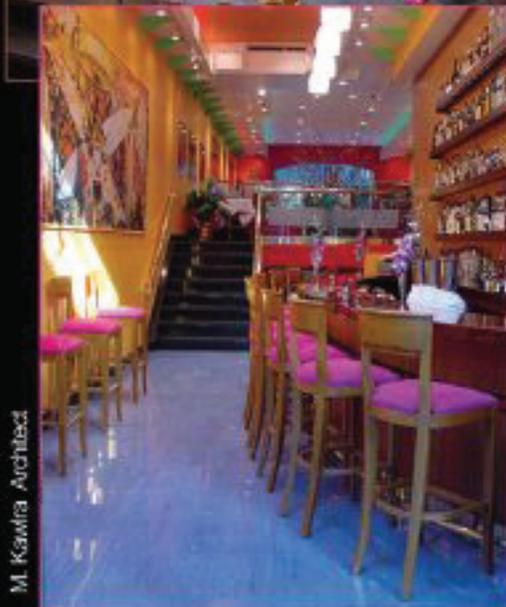
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**Mamá's Boys**  
Juan Rojas Campos and his brother Bernabe grew up with six brothers in a tiny Mexican village, where their mother taught them to cook. Now, with their brother-in-law the hermanos have opened Mamá Mexico, a festive cantina with a roster of frozen margaritas, a festive of Mexican village life, and a strolling mariachi singer. The extensive menu ranges from the traditional (nachos, burritos) to the less familiar (grilled marinated rack of lamb and red-strapper soup). (2672 Broadway, near 102nd Street.) Extract from New York magazine dated September 15, 1997.

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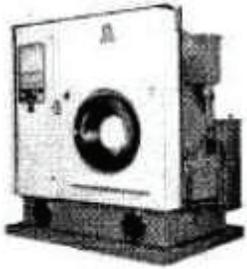
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## Updates>>>News Updates>>>News Updates>>>News

### W. 96th St. Subway Station

The MTA has selected a contractor, Citnalta Construction, and received the DOT permits required for work to proceed on the renovation of the W. 96th St. subway station at Broadway. The contract is expected to run through much of 2010. Work has begun within the station involving tracks and columns. Some service at the station will be suspended, for example on weekends, to facilitate this work. The DOT permits allow street work to begin (e.g. widening of the mall and narrowing of adjacent sidewalks) but a schedule for that work has not yet been made public.

### Con Ed Maintenance Work

For several weeks from late July into early August, Con Ed had crews working on underground wiring at the intersection of West End Ave. and W. 102nd St. and on W. 102nd St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. to replace burned out low voltage cables that supply our buildings. These cables are part of a grid offering several paths for electric current rather than a linear distribution system so service is not disrupted when only a few have burnt out. A Con Ed spokesperson said that repairs of this sort are done from time to time to assure the reliability of the system.

### Rats Above and Below

Buildings large and small throughout our neighborhood are deploying bait boxes in an effort to decrease the rat population. These boxes, typically black plastic about 2" high and 10" to 14" on a side with an entry hole for the rodent, contain poisoned food, which is expected to kill the rat after it returns to its burrow. Reports of rats on the tracks and platforms of the 103rd St. station of the #1 subway line have led the station superintendent, Maggie Stevenson, to request additional visits of the TA's rodent abatement teams. You can call in a report to her at (212) 712-3246.



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# Complaints and Cooperation Improve Quality of Life

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would increase.

Through the efforts of the police, CB7, the Parks Department and the Wise Towers Tenant Association, the party, for the most part, seems to be over on W. 92nd St. "It is a lot better," one W. 92nd St. resident reported. "It's so much better that I think [O'Reilly] is doing what she said she would."

It's not just O'Reilly who's getting the job done, according to Penny Ryan, manager of CB7. The problem required several agencies to work together, she said. The police did assign a foot patrol and intensify police presence, but the Parks Department increased its unarmed patrols and put up maps directing people to legal barbeque areas and the Wise Towers Tenant Association helped educate its members. "Everyone did a lot of communicating," Ryan said. "Everyone worked really well together." As a result, there was no brouhaha between those who barbequed and those who didn't, nor were any arrests made, she said. The problem was solved by information and education. Coordinating

multi-agency responses is the responsibility of the Community Board, she added.

On W. 109th St., the problems have been ameliorated but not eliminated. "It's been quieter and better in terms of drug sales but the street still has significant issues," said Peter Arndtsen, manager of the Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District. "[The police] have not been able to provide a walking presence in the neighborhood. They have put pressure on but that piece is missing."

The differences in the source of the problem may account for the difference in the level of victory, Ryan indicated. On W. 92nd St., many of those involved were the adult children of current residents, coming home for the summer. They had grown up on the street and regarded it and the nearby park as their front yard. When made aware of the rules, they cooperated.

It is unclear, Ryan said, how much of the problem on W. 109th St. is caused by people coming into the neighborhood from outside and how much is caused by residents. People

in the neighborhood are accustomed to gathering outside to visit; some even bring couches out, according to Ryan. "That's the way they have always done it," she said, adding that at times there's been trouble over music or beer.

People have also complained about noisy bars through their block association and postings on an online discussion group ([//groups.yahoo.com/group/around110](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/around110)). "The police went into a full-court press," Ryan recalled, "and members of the association were getting caught up in it too."

The two bars causing most of the problem have been closed recently, she said. The two remaining have cooperated with police by adding security cameras, lights and bouncers to reduce their negative effects. But Amsterdam Ave. between W. 108th and W. 110th Sts. attracts people from outside the area, Ryan said, some coming for drugs. Based on the W. 92nd St. experience, a satisfactory solution will come from complaints—to 311, to the Community Board, to the police Community Council—and cooperation among residents, their associations and public agencies.

## Serious Flavors Abound at Casual Thai Market

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last available tables for two. By 7:15 there was a line of 12 people waiting to be seated. Some opted to sit at the spacious bar and enjoy their meal there, which is a wise choice for single diners and those who find themselves faced with too long a wait.

Thai Market is at 960 Amsterdam Ave., between W. 107th and W. 108th Sts.; phone: 212-280-4575. It is open daily from noon to 11 p.m. Lunch specials (\$7) are offered from noon to 3 p.m. Delivery is available; major credit cards are accepted; beer, wine and liquor are served.

## Doe Fund Venture Collects Restaurant Oil For Conversion to Bio-Diesel

The "men in blue" who help keep Broadway clean are turning green. One of the Doe Fund's revenue generating micro-businesses, RWA Resource Recovery, has Doe Fund workers driving trucks around the city collecting waste cooking oil from participating restaurants. The collection is made free of charge to the restaurant, which also gets a tax break.

Rack and Soul, the chicken and ribs restaurant on Broadway at W. 109th St., is one of the participants. Recently, an open Doe Fund truck carrying a large tank pulled up to the curb on Broadway.

The driver, who was proud to have been photographed for a *New York Times* story about the venture, connected a hose from the truck to another tank at the back of the restaurant. Then he cranked up the small engine of a pump on the back of the truck. The oil he collected would be taken to a Long Island plant for conversion into bio-diesel fuel which runs the factory and is sold.

The restaurant was glad to be relieved of the waste and the Doe Fund driver was glad to have a good job in a growing industry. For more information on this project, visit [doefund.org](http://doefund.org).

## On Broadway

**O**penings and Closings: ♦♦The computer game store on the east side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd St. is gone and has been replaced by a furniture store, **Bazaar de la Paz**, which specializes in “eco-friendly furniture handcrafted from salvaged Indonesian hardwoods.” The owner states that “ten percent of our net profits are reserved for the NYC Fund for Public Schools.” More information is available at the store, which is open Tuesday - Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., or online at [bazaardelapaz.com](http://bazaardelapaz.com). ♦♦After several years of vacancy, the southwest corner of Broadway and W. 97th St., where the last active tenant was the now defunct electronics store **The Wiz**, will soon have a new occupant: **Walgreen Co.** The nation’s largest drugstore chain and eighth largest retailer, which already has six stores in Manhattan and over 5,800 throughout the country and Puerto Rico, will have over 15,200 square feet of space in this location.

While the need to order an escalator for the property will delay construction by about six months, the new store is expected to open in spring 2008, according to Mark La Pointe of Friedland Properties. ♦♦**Cohen’s Fashion Optical**, currently on the northwest corner of Broadway and W. 96th St. will move to a larger space next door on Broadway. They expect to complete the move in October. Negotiations were underway but not completed at press time for a tenant to replace Cohen’s. ♦♦The Argentine restaurant **Pampa**, on Amsterdam Ave between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts. has closed. Announced to open in its place in September is **Café Tango**.

**G**oing Down, Going Up: ♦♦The retail space should be enclosed and the scaffolding around the front of **Ariel West**, the 34-story condominium building on Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts., should be coming

down by mid to late September, according to Brian Papini, construction supervisor for the controversial Extell projects. He reports that a “gorgeous” facade consisting of “hand set terra cotta panels from Europe” would soon be installed on the retail portion of the building facing Broadway. He also said that as of late August, no commercial leases had been signed for the ground floor space of either Ariel East or West.

♦♦The same appears to be true for the **Metro Theater** on the east side of Broadway just south of Ariel East. A non-profit performing arts organization continues to seek funding sources and agreements with the property owner but has nothing further to report at this time. ♦♦On the southeast corner of Broadway and W. 103rd St., interior renovation is underway and the sign is up announcing the second coming of **Starbucks** to this neighborhood. (The first was on the northwest corner of Broadway and W. 102nd St., now an **HSBC** branch.) The opening is slated for mid to late September, according to Starbucks district manager, Joe Austin.

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**Marc Sorkin**  
Block Association Member

## Make Your Mark; Paint a Fire Hydrant

**E**d Coffman, a resident of 855 West End Ave., painted the fire hydrant in front of his building and now the Block Association is spreading his idea. On Saturday, September 29, with the assistance of the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, we will have a hydrant painting party to spruce up the 12 fire plugs on our streets.

DEP will provide the paint, brushes and cleanup rags. We need to provide the painters, so here’s your chance to make your mark on New York City! To sign up, please send an email with your name, address and phone number to [paint@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:paint@w102-103blockassn.org) right now or call (212) 866-5769 (at a reasonable hour, please) to leave that information. Residents who live adjacent to a hydrant will have first choice to paint that one. Others will be assigned as conveniently as possible.

The number of hydrants we paint will depend on the crew that volunteers. Budding Picassos, sign up now!

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## Thank You, Members!

To all of our contributors, heartfelt thanks. Your donations keep the Block Association going and the guard on the street. Names of those who are “paid up” through the *previous* quarter (approximately) appear below; please let us know of errors. We ask that you please fill out the envelope stub

**New and continuing donors:  
please use the enclosed envelope  
to send your contribution to:  
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P. O. Box 1940  
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completely (including your apartment number) and legibly when making your contribution (the stubs are the basis of our record-keeping) and indicate if you prefer anonymity.

**235 W. 102 St.:** Awner, Cox, Einhorn/Futterman, Greene, Kirkpatrick, Knight, Lyman, Meese, Mitchell, Nelson-Schwartz, O’Hanlon, Smolar/Penn, Stevenson, Timperley **240 W. 102 St.:** Eisenstadt, Field, Fishman, Kalish, McGirt, Nitz, Steinberg/Bratman **244 W. 102 St.:** Sugarman **247 W. 102 St.:** Dunn **307 W. 102 St.:** Zakaria/Throckmorton **308 W. 102 St.:** Hilary **309 W. 102 St.:** Baron **311 W. 102 St.:** Doyle/Lauren **312 W. 102 St.:** Plutzik/Goldwasser **313 W. 102 St.:** Betts **315 W. 102 St.:** Ehrlich, Hansen, Knox, Weil **318 W. 102 St.:** Erselcuk **320 W. 102 St.:** Brail **250 W. 103 St.:** Agathocleous, Falk, Katzer, Kotchen, Lee/Payez, O’Brien/Boyle, Perman, Rahmani, Soskin, Sue/Lin **254 W. 103 St.:** Feldman/Hasenpusch **303 W. 103 St.:** Frishauf **305 W. 103 St.:** Bertin **307 W. 103 St.:** Tredanari **312 W. 103 St.:** Aaronson **315 W. 103 St.:** Danna **316 W. 103 St.:** Iler/Krishna, Kleidon/Ahmed, Oakes **855 West End Ave.:** Coffman, Ehrenfeld, Hawke, Solowiejczyk/Porjesz **862 West End Ave.:** Hewitt **865 West End Ave.:** Axelrod, Beels, Blumm, Chase, Cushman/Sorkin, Davidge/Lott, Gurman, Hanrahan, Lowenthal, Nye, Perchanok/Krasner, Ragovoy, Zakrzewski **870 West End Ave.:** Wuorinen **875 West End Ave.:** Ba-

bush, Batterman, Borinstein/Vartanian, Canin, Carll, DeCurtis/MacDowell, Eisen/Dworkin, Felton, Fricke/Klimley, Fuerstein, Garbers/Belth, Gillman, Gordon, Grosz/Fisch, Hausman, Hochman/Reid, Keane, Lasher, Leiman, Leon, Levin, Lohr/Trucco, Malatzky, Manley, March/Laferrère, McDermott, Rando-Chanon, Reilly, Rogers, Rubel, Smith/Chibnik, Sondik/Greene-Sondik, Stein, Straw/Gubitosa, Ward, Williamson, Yahr **878 West End Ave.:** Dorcy/Runey, Foreman, Gross/Ochshorn, Hotchkiss, Lansdale **884 West End Ave.:** Booth/Newman, Colas, Davis, Dispenza, Finch/Fitzgibbon, Pines, Waldman **885 West End Ave.:** Bernstein/Bowen, Brown/Grubber, Browning/Laffey, Cross, Cryer, Friedman, Goldberg, Goldstein/Roney, Sanders, Sherman/Chafetz, Spring/Miller, Tolkow/Woodbury, Weiss **299 Riverside Dr.:** Cunningham, Dane, Del Alamo, Fell, Field/Seidel, Flateman/Goldstein, Fleischer, Healy/Emery, Holtz/Horowitz, Hoult, Kaplan, Kastanis, Leidner/Ruden, Reich/Dessel, Shear, Soltz, Tedoff, Toub/Pagano, Wang/Sedlis, Wollos/Best, Wong **300 Riverside Dr.:** Abramski, Buckland, Caggiano, Chevray, Clarke, Cummins, Edelman/Gold, Eisler, Flint/McLeod, Forbes/De Prenger, Fox, Frank, Greenwald/Struhl, Hockstader, Hudson/Cherry, Kowal, Lerse, Livingstone, Maderer, Meer, Mills, Mojarro/Greiper, Rack, Reich/Greenberg, Ross/Myers, Sato, Schiff, Seget/LaBasse, Serra, Simon, Sinaiko, Stone, Taus, Themm/Clevenger, Tollinchi/Sidari, van Schaardenburg, Vaz/Moebius, Weissberg **305 Riverside Dr.:** Avidon, Hoffman, Jacoby, Juviler/Stephens, Kaiden, Liebowitz, Marks, McGinn, Meyer/Biestock, Minerva/Danzig, Sandlow, Udovicki **310 Riverside Dr.:** Acero/Dyer, Coddington, Deming, Godshall, Hagiwara, Huber, Hugus, Mahoney, McKinney/Chin, Piper, Sandberg, Tambini/Miller, Turnock, Wiener, Woodward **Other:** 103 Grocery & Flowers **Landlords/Co-ops:** 235 W. 102 St., 240 W. 102 St., 247 W. 102 St., 252 W. 102 St., 302 W. 102 St., 315 W. 102 St., 250 W. 103 St., 308 W. 103 St., 309 W. 103 St., 854 West End Ave., 855 West End

Ave., 856 West End Ave., 858 West End Ave., 864 West End Ave., 866 West End Ave., 868 West End Ave., 872 West End Ave., 875 West End Ave., 878 West End Ave., 885 West End Ave., 299 Riverside Dr., 300 Riverside Dr., 310 Riverside Dr. **Commercial:** Bellov, Busters, Fleischer, Kay French Cleaners, Mamá Mexico/Rojas, Perez, Regional, Sorkin, Stahl, Wohlfarth & Associates

## One of a Million, New Street Tree Coming Soon

Mayor Bloomberg has promised a million new street trees as part of his PlaNYC for greening New York City and one of them will grace our neighborhood this fall.

The Block Association’s sidewalks include 89 street tree pits that are home to 87 living trees of 14 varieties. One holds a dead tree in front of 311 W. 103rd St. and another, in front of 865 West End Ave., has long stood empty. Now the West End Ave. pit is scheduled to be filled by the Parks Department with a *zelkova serrata*, also called Japanese hornbeam, in October. Two of these trees, the only ones in our Block Association district, can be seen growing on the south side of W. 103rd St. just east of West End Ave.

The request to remove and replace the dead tree on W. 103rd St. was received by the Parks Department too late for this fall’s planting season. It is, however, on their list for next spring.

## Support Your Block Association

### Mugs & Caps Available Now!

White porcelain **coffee mugs**  
(with green lettering)

Off-white **baseball caps**  
(with black bills and lettering)  
each displaying the

Block Association logo and motto  
**“Where Community Spirit Thrives”**  
**Mugs: \$5, Caps: \$10.**

**See Page 2 for contact information.**