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City Room



Of Sleet, Roaches and Wal-Mart

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The morning began with idle chatter about sleet before quickly moving to the weightiest subject of life and death.

Between those alternately chilly and chilling poles, there was much else to blog about on this cold November day.

For example, while the city was distracted by the summer scourge of bedbugs, we lost sight of the fact that there are roaches everywhere, as Animal notes. Perhaps it's a function of preferring the devil we know to the one we don't, but there seems to have been little fuss made over the city roach map.

Speaking of things that are everywhere, Wal-Mart still has its sights set on the city and is now working with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's former campaign manager to make its dream happen, Crain's New York reports. "This is aggressive now," **Faith Hope Consolo, Chairwoman of Prudential Douglas Elliman's Retail Group**, told the paper: "This is not just thinking about it and dabbling. They're dancing around the city."

Also growing more aggressive: folks who want to get underground to see the hidden-from-view street art known as the Underbelly Project. Some of these efforts — failed ones — have resulted in arrests. Police officers were less than kind to a group of Reddit users who tried to visit the site with keffiyehs around their faces to keep the dust out of the mouths, according to Urlesque.

Further items:

- A Bronx entrepreneur sees a ban on cellphones in school as a great opportunity, for a dollar-a-day phone storage business!
- Streetsblog reminds us that on Monday night there will probably be another round in the battle over bike lanes as attention turns to the protected lane on Columbus Avenue on the Upper West Side during a community board meeting there.
- New York Lives, a Web video project, notes the defection of a film and television prop house from Long Island City to Gowanus.

Happy Monday!