



THREE PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY  
10016-5991  
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reach the highway through the city center. The area is filled with tourists, shoppers and commuters taking a break in the shade of table-top umbrellas. Cyclists glide by in the bike lanes around the edges of the open spaces. Concrete pots filled with greenery help separate the pedestrians from the traffic (as do a few orange-and-white construction barrels). One part of Herald Square has been designated for chess and backgammon games, courtesy of Chess NYC, which among the boards it provides is a floor model with knights and bishops that measure about 2 ft tall.

On three Saturdays in August, the Dept. of Transportation closes a 7-mile stretch of Park Avenue to traffic, and New Yorkers are invited to “come

