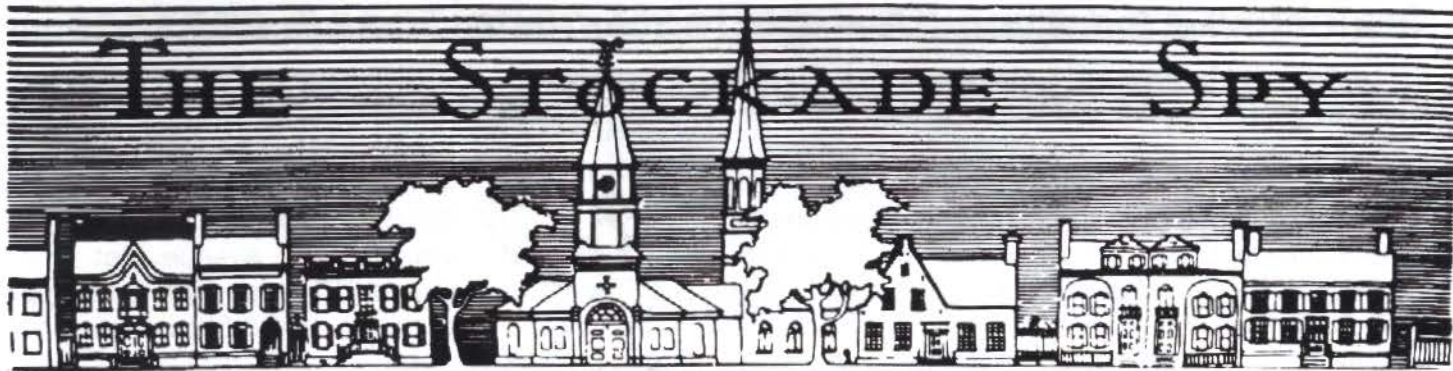


THE STOCKADE SPY



November 2006 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 48 No. 3

Walkabout and Waterfront Faire - What a Day!



What a beautiful day we had for our 47th Stockade Walkabout. Our streets were awash with costumed characters, strolling minstrels, visitors from afar and historic house lovers. There were nine homes open to the public this year and three churches. Our carriage drivers were kept busy all day giving our visitors a scenic drive along the banks of the beautiful Mohawk River. The Waterfront Faire attracted a large number of visitors who came to hear the jazz ensemble from Union College and the String Dusters or to watch the English Country Dancers, a new addition

this year. At lunch time all tables along the river were filled with visitors enjoying the large variety of food purchased from vendors in the park. There were many crafts offered and business was brisk. The children's zone hosted by the YWCA was kept busy with face painting, colonial games and other activities to delight children.

New additions this year were the Schenectady County Flaire featuring colonial crafts and historic table clinics. The Schenectady Heritage Foundation hosted a Preservation Fair for those interested in restoring an historic house.

Our thanks go out to all who made this event so successful, our home owners, committee chairs and volunteers.

This year was a very successful event with the cooperation of the weatherman and our order for a fine day next year is already on file.

- Lyn Gordon, Chair

Save the date: September 29, 2007!

48th Stockade Walkabout

Special celebration of 50 year Anniversary of the Stockade Association!

Birthday Party & Benefit for Arthur's Market

Mon. Nov. 20 6 - 10pm
refreshments (cake!)

live music by Hannah Imbesi, singer
Aaron Civic, 12 year old rock 'n roller
Eric Oxhorn, jazz guitar

at Arthur's Market (details page 2)

Holiday Party & Gift Show

Sat. Nov. 25
11am - 3pm

with music & refreshments

at Arthur's Market

-
- **Stockade General Meeting**
- Thursday, Nov. 9, 7pm
- see page 3
-
- **Kerst Kermis & Stockade Tree Lighting**
- Sunday, Dec. 3
- see page 9
-
- **Dec. Spy Deadline**
- **Nov. 15**
-

Arthur's Market Benefit *(continued from page 1)*

Arthur's Market is still a new business that is not yet meeting its bills. Costs are very high. I am stretched to the max. So I am asking my friends in the community for help. Come to my birthday party and consider a donation to help me build this important neighborhood center. I am very happy with progress we've made in so short a time. We're building a kitchen so we can serve hot food. Checks should be made to Richard Genest. But please come to the party even if you can't make a donation.

- Richard

In and Around the Stockade

"Come and Work Out Before You Pig Out"

Thursday, Nov. 23 44 Wash. Ave.

Cardio Step Aerobics 8-8:45am (YWCA Gym)

Aqua Fitness 9-9:45am (YWCA Pool)

Admission: a non-perishable food donation to support the YWCA Emergency Food Pantry. For info, 374-3394 ext.141 nleccc@ywca-schenectady.org

Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Avenue 374-0263

• **Lecture:** "Building Samuel Fuller: The Construction of a Mohawk Valley Legend." Presenter, Walter Wheeler, Saturday, November 11, 1:30 pm refreshments; 2 pm program. Free and open to the public.

Schenectady County Community College

78 Wash. Ave. 381-1250 www.sunysccc.edu - full list

• **Leadership Training Series:** An Afternoon with Ellen, "Enhancing Relationships for a More Fabulous You," relationship expert **Ellen Gootblatt**. Thurs., Nov. 9, 11:30am-12:30 pm, Elston Hall, Activity Forum. Free.

Moon and River Cafe

115 S. Ferry St. 4-7pm 7days

Fine Vegetarian Fare & Dessert
Paradise-382-1938 Live Music 8pm

Nov. 7 String Dusters/bluegrass

Nov. 8 6pm discussion: "The Great Transformation: To Peace & Justice"

Nov. 9 Dave Lippman/political com.

Nov. 16 Dave Cornelius/Native American Culture & songs in Mohawk language all 8pm & free

The Open Door Bookstore &

Gift Gallery 128 Jay St., 346-2719

Annual Holiday Open House

Sat, Nov. 4 1-3

Your House - Resources for Research



Plans are afoot on procedures for getting a plaque for your house. But, in the meantime, you can do some research at the Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue, at their Gremis-Doolittle Library. Library

hours - Monday to Friday, 1:00-5:00pm; Saturdays, 9am to 1pm. 374-0263.

Friendly people there will help you with these great resources. Here's a good starting list:

- **City Directories** - start at 1842
- **Maps** - 1850, 1856, 1866, 1880, 1884, 1889 1892, 1898, 1900, 1914, 1930.
- **Family Folders** - If you know who lived in your house, there may be a folder on that family with photos, obits, geneologies, etc.
- **Books on famous families** - Schermerhorns, Vedders, Vroomans, etc.
- **Other Books** - "History of the Schenectady Patent" "The Markers Speak," "History of the American Revolution," "Early History of Schenectady," "Schenectady Genesis: How a Dutch Colonial Village Became an American City," and Early History of Schenectady."
- **Pearson's Street Scrapbooks** - original source dating properties back to the 1700's
- **Harriet Paige Diaries** - life & families in the 1860's and before with index
- **Larry Hart's Gazette columns**, "Tales of Old Dorp" with index
- **Mrs. Tidball's scrapbooks**-1930s, 1940s & before, 13 volumes and index
- **1962 Photos** of all Stockade buildings
- **Stockade Street folders**
- **Photo folders** of Stockade buildings by streets

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Stockade Association Meeting - All neighbors welcome!

Thursday, November 9 7pm Social 7:30pm Meeting

Schenectady County Historical Society 32 Washington Ave. (entrance in back)

Agenda

Speaker: Jim Jamieson, Capitol Architect

Historic Tourism: Advantages & Benefits
History & Construction of the State Capitol

- * By-Laws Amendment - see page 5 for details
- Neighborhood Watch and Safety Concerns
 - Committee Reports

* In order to vote on the By-Laws Amendment -

neighbors need to be a member in good standing (membership paid for 2006-2007-see below)
Is your name listed on page 5? Plan on bringing your checkbook or cash.

Future Stockade Association Meetings

January - Thurs. 11

March - Thurs. 8

May - Thurs. 10

Look for speakers and programs for General Meetings announced in that month's *Stockade Spy*.

The Stockade Association Membership 2006 - 2007

The Stockade Association has been carrying out its mission, "the protection and improvement of the properties" within its boundaries, for 49 years. Its objectives are to preserve the Historic District and the quality of life for its caretakers. The Association helps assure stability in a neighborhood that has been termed "a national treasure" and is enjoyed by visitors from all parts of America and abroad. Please support the Association and become a member by returning the coupon below.

Membership: October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007. \$15 per person, \$20 per household. \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Address _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Business _____ e-mail _____ Date _____

Please indicate if you would like to help with any of the following useful efforts:

Art Show Membership Riverside Park Walkabout Neighborhood Watch
 Garden Group Neighborhood Celebrations Sidewalk Sale *The Stockade Spy* Government Affairs

The Stockade Spy is distributed to the neighborhood monthly, September through May.

If you are a non-resident and

• would like to be mailed *The Stockade Spy*, it is \$10 per year. \$ _____

• would like to become a "Friend of the Stockade" (an associate membership)
and support the efforts of the Stockade, your contributions are very welcome. \$ _____

If you would like to give *The Stockade Spy* as a gift, it is \$10 per year. \$ _____

Name of recipient _____

Address of recipient _____

Name of sender _____

Please make check payable to "**The Stockade Association**" Total Amount enclosed \$ _____
and send to: Stockade Association Treasurer, 10 North Church Street, Schenectady, NY 12305.



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78th SEASON - 2006-2007

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
Oct. 20-22 & 25-29

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
Dec. 8-10 & 13-17

THE TALE OF THE ALGERIST'S WIFE
Jan. 26-28 & Jan. 31-Feb. 4

INVENTING VAN GOGH
Mar. 16-18 & 21-25

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD
May 11-13 & 16-20

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9:00 a.m. Parish Mass
10:00 a.m. Brunch & Fellowship**

Phone: (518) 374-1161

Thank you for joining

The Stockade Association

(as of October 17, 2006) To join, please see page 3

Elena Alvarez
Meredith Anker
Paul Basile
Joan Besserab
Theone Bob
Bob Briber
Sylvie Briber
Bob Burger
Maureen Burger
F. Richard Churchill
Jim Dickson
Marjorie Eastham-Austin
Lydia Eis
Beverly Elander
William Garcia
Gocha Priscilla
William Gocha
Marie Gutowski
H. Gilbert Harlow
Fred Heitkamp
*John Hoff
Glenn Houston
Kathy Johnson
Bruce Jordan
Margaret King
Gloria Kishton
*Betty Lane
*Jim Lane
Robert Lemmerman
Theresa Lemmerman
John Lombard
Jack McDonald
Jeff Mallia

Karen Mallia
Elio Matarazzo
Donald Mealy
Betsy Moyer
Dennis Meyer
Dale Miller
Lauralee Moore
Jane Oble
Steven Oble
Elizabeth Orsini
Lisa Orsini
Zoe Oxley
*Donald Penta
Joan Purtell
Peter Rumora
Jim Ryan
John Samatulski
Marilyn Sassi
Jennifer Schmidt
Larry Schmidt
Susanna Sherwood
Gertrude Sullivan
AnnThomas
Christopher Waldron
Glenn Witecki
Christine Witts
Helen Witts
William Witts
Gregory Woods
Sandra Woods
Jean Zegger

* Friends

To All Flood Prone Residents

I would like to know whether you would want a meeting to discuss flood problems. I would like to know more information given us before, during, and after the flood -such as rise of water, how fast its coming up, etc., more telecommunication during flooding before, during and after. In case of evacuation where do we go and what is offered to us. This meeting would pertain to all that live on Front Street (odd numbers), Washington Ave., Governors Lane, Ferry Street, North Street and Ingersoll Ave. If yes, please call me - 346-5745 so I could set up a meeting with Bill Van Hosen. Let me know, afternoon or evening. If I'm not home, leave a message. Thank you.

- Helen Witts

By Laws Amendment Vote at the Nov. 9 General Meeting (see page 3)

An amendment has been proposed for the Association's By Laws.

Article X - Amendments

Section 1. Reads "Amendments to these By Laws may be made at the November meeting of the Association or at the Annual Meeting, provided notice of proposed amendment has been given at a previous meeting."

Article VIII. Dues-Finances, Section 3, detail b) Any expenditure of Association funds which has not been approved by the Board, and has not been budgeted, shall require the approval of 2/3rds vote of the membership (at a duly constituted meeting). Notice of the proposed expenditure shall be contained in the meeting notice.

Save Money This Winter!

Winter and snow are coming soon. And with enough snow comes snow emergency: odd/even side parking and car lowing. Stay up-to-date on snow emergencies by joining the neighborhood email list. Just send a blank email to:

HistoricStockade-subscribe@yahoo.com

and reply to the confirmation email you will get. Call Dale at 381-6189 if you have problems.



*Gloria's
Morning
Glories*

*207
Union
Street*

one of Chris Morris' gardens



What an incredible burst of colour all over East Front this past summer. There have been flowers popping out everywhere. Several times I found myself walking down the street just to catch the many colours jumping out at me. As they dodged or greeted the sun, they all had a story to tell. Some, such as Ernie's marigolds grew magically from last year. Others were diligently planted by Elizabeth who made many awesome arrangements around our many trees . . . one small garden got lots of compliments, the flowers kept bursting to capacity all summer. This was planted in memory of our friend Joan Sheridan, who is still making her neighbors smile.

Near the tracks, Chris Morris' dazzling display turned many heads, including, I'm sure, passengers from Amtrak. But her gardens near her home are often missed as they sit back off Front Street. They were spectacular this summer. Chris' efforts have been contagious. Her neighbor Joyce has displayed an amazing creativity on her front porch as well as her backyard, which is reminiscent of a pioneer's garden. Joyce is putting Front on the frontier!

All the neighbors know Flo is smiling down on her former vegetable garden which Pat and Ron have lovingly landscaped. Across the street at BL's Tavern there is an exciting new garden space developed. It has lots of annuals highlighted by wild grasses. New flower beds filled with mums have just popped up. Thanks, Frank.

While impressed with all the care that went into the flowers streetside. . . I was lucky enough to find a secret garden, the backyard of Judy DeNegris is an amazing array of perennials, annuals and vegetables. Indicative of an old canal house, the fountain is made of buckets. . . water pours- and the dogwood and dwarfed blue spruce listen. The whole place is a meditation of love and peace!

It would be impossible to name all the folks

who put flower pots out. It is so appreciated, thank you very much for taking the time to care about our neighborhood. Many thanks to Ed Bentley who has volunteered to cleanup the bowling alley parking lot and has been working hard at it all summer and fall. Also to Lonnie and Joanne who by painting their property at Madison and Jefferson have unveiled an architectural gem.



Chris Morris' garden

Squaring Off

Boxes stacked in the corner
containing receipts, recorded deeds,
thoughts I believe I still need
for what? I ask, as I strain
to remember what's in them.
Sticks and stones, old bones and clutter
wrapped around me like a winding-sheet.

I gaze with murderous eye.
The mountain of memory
seems to detect my intent,
takes a bold defiant stance
as I plot its undoing,
draw my sword and make ready
for the kill.

- Catherine Norr

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Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

The following is a summary of the minutes of the October 3 board meeting. For a copy of the complete minutes please contact board secretary Dave Lowry at stockadedave@nycap.rr.com after November 7.

The Stockade Association Board of Directors met October 3, 2006. The meeting opened with a presentation by Bob Gatta of Portadam, Inc. Bob educated the board on how his company's portable dams work and how they can help control flooding along the Mohawk. He suggested lobbying SEMO, (the State Emergency Management Organization) to purchase the dams since the costs for the Association would prove prohibitive.

Treasurer Lyn Gordon reported that the Association's finances were in good condition. Lyn also reported that the 2006 Walkabout and Waterfront Fair was a huge success and the day went off without a glitch. The Board gave Lyn a round of thanks and applause for her hard work.

Dale Miller reported the New York State historic markers project was almost ready to begin and asked for volunteers. He also reported that Village Paint had

donated the paint for the project. Beverly Elander led a discussion about neighborhood safety concerns. The board suggested better lighting in the neighborhood, inviting the police to general meetings to discuss concerns, exploring the feasibility of a neighborhood watch and contacting the Chief of Police.

The Board then discussed recent problems with the delivery of general meeting notification flyers, noting that residents are not receiving them until the day before the meetings. After discussion, it was agreed that the main problem was that too many people were involved in the process. The Board decided to streamline the process: the secretary will design, produce, and make multiple copies of the flyer, which will include an agenda, and give them to the delivery person for neighborhood distribution at least 10 days before the meeting.

Peter reported on plans for the Christmas celebration and Diane reported that Kerst Kermit event would not be at the Stockade Inn this year and she was searching for a new location.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Planning to Do Some Outside Repairs & Painting?

Now is a good time to get your paperwork done for Spring projects

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If you are planning outside repairs and painting, including those that are **identical to what was there before**, you may need to file an application. Any repairs, painting, or sidewalk replacement **seen from the public right of way** must have approval from the Schenectady Historic Commission. Applications, full deadline and meeting schedule, and further information are available from Cari Hourigan, 382-5054.

(CHOURIGAN@GMAIL.COM) in the Department of Development, Room 14, 105 Jay Street, City Hall, Schenectady, 12305. Fees for Historic Commission applications are \$10 for residential applications and \$20 for commercial applications. Following is the schedule for application deadlines and 7:00 PM review meeting dates for 2006:

Application deadline	Review meeting
November 6	November 16
December 4	December 18



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The 5th Annual "Kerst Kermis" (Holiday Craft Fair)

at the Van Dyck Restaurant & The Stockade Inn Sunday December 3rd

Brunch: 10 AM -2 PM
(Stockade Inn)

Craft Fair 11 AM – 5 PM
(Van Dyck)

Begin the Holiday season with a gift for your family and Friends and make a date to share a day of Holiday Magic at the Stockade Association's 5th Annual Kerst Kermis Celebration.

Join us for this Holiday Craft Fair that includes an enchanting display of gifts from the heart.

Shop at the Van Dyck Restaurant, 237 Union Street, Schenectady from 11 AM -5 PM and see an outstanding display of Handmade Creations by area artists. These creations include a wide variety of wreaths, pottery, candles, jewelry designs, handmade ornaments, cards, knit wear, antiques and much more.

In addition to the fine crafts at the Van Dyck we invite you to enjoy an old-fashioned stroll or carriage ride to or from a fabulous brunch at the Stockade Inn. What an amazing way to take in the holiday sights of the Stockade Neighborhood.

The day's events culminate in the lighting of the Stockade Christmas tree and Caroling around the Indian by Arthur's Market.

The cost of shopping (which includes a carriage ride between the two venues) is \$3.00. The price for Brunch and shopping is \$23.50 and includes tax and gratuity.

This magical day is sponsored by The Stockade Association and Marshall & Sterling Insurance and we'd like to thank them for helping us continue this wonderful Holiday Tradition.

To Join the fun please fill out the registration form below and look forward to starting your holiday season in the spirit of fun, community and friends.

Not Hungry?
Shopping and
carriage Ride Only

The VanDyck

Donation 3.00

Brunch

Shopping and carriage ride

Stockade Inn

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

of Tickets X 23.50 – Total

Please make your check payable to: **Stockade Association**

Mail to

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9

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Wednesday Evening

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7:00 Prayer Meeting
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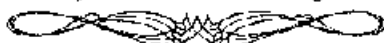


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Everyday Art

- Catherine de Salle

Gathering The Pine Boughs

The berries of the Bittersweet were so small, I almost missed them. Sparkling red they were, with the intensity of a Barberry hedge, resplendent in the November grey.

Mr. Cline and I walked, and clipped, our ears aware of all sounds, wary of hunters and stray dogs, we talked as we cut the pine boughs. My feet on thick cushions of velvet moss and amber pine needles. That cold, damp, winter smell. Clear air invading my nostrils. Oh, it felt so good. The air, the ground, the pine, the feel of it.

And my friend.

Constant, predictable, warm.

Tilsit cheese and clean cats.

The faded blue of the lake, just this side of ice. Life.

Freedom.

Friendship.

Everything.

On November 22, 1995 Bob Cline and I set out to clip pine boughs for my window boxes in Fort Hunter. He lived at Lake Lovely and we ventured into the woods behind his cabin for the greenery. I wrote this little piece for him that same afternoon. We'd been friends forever. Bob died of lung cancer on the fourth of July, 1997.

- - - Tidings - - -

Welcome to:

- Robin Sanders & Brendan Burns to Washington Avenue.
- Jane and Steve Oble to Union Street.

Congratulations to:

- Joyce and Artur Wachala on their new baby, Wladyslaw (Walter) born Feb. 20th, 6 lbs. 10 oz.

If you know of any items for "Tidings" such as neighborhood arrivals, departures, births, deaths, anniversaries, or special achievements, please call Sylvie Briber, 377-0469.

1906 Love Letters Discovered

It was discovered, one fall day in 2005, in a dark corner of the cellar at 22 Washington Avenue, secreted away and neatly tucked into two black tin boxes, the love letters between Joe Clements, Jr. and Bertha Platt. Two boxes, because one contained the letters to her, and the other to him, all carefully folded, and many preserved in their original envelopes, all numbered as they were received. Over 300 letters were found that represent their courtship correspondence between 1906 -1907, the year leading up to their marriage on January 12, 1907. Written in a charming and candid style, they capture some interesting details of life in 1906 when Joe was living in Schenectady and Bertha in New Britain, Connecticut.

Joe and Bertha owned #18-24 Washington Avenue from 1909 to 1956 and lived at #22 Washington on the third floor from 1937 until their deaths - Joe in 1945 and Bertha in 1960. They had a door put in, connecting #22 with #18 because Joe's sister, Edith, lived next door. The Colangelos bought the house in 1956 and Bertha rented from them.

Marty Colangelo discovered the letters and then Elinore Schumacher, residing at #22, bitten by curiosity, researched the family and was unable to find any living descendants. Elinore lovingly typed all 300 letters! Here, and in future issues of *The Spy*, are some interesting excerpts from them.

(The following are excerpts of an early letter Bertha writes to Joe)

Jan. 8, 1906

Dear Joe:

. . . Doesn't it seem queer to be so certain of one person - why I could tell you everything. Some extra work with regard to this next church supper has come up and I was rather dreading it - But now! Why, I don't care what happens.

I simply cannot talk consecutively. We just must see a lot of each other while there is a chance. Surely we can give Lillian and the rest the slip and have another treat like Saturday, when you are in Waterbury. You'll come over in broad daylight - so to speak - for one Sunday. Lets make that our first Sunday in W. Will that be this Sunday? On the principle of eating the plums first - and then something will surely strike us as novel way of giving Mrs. Grundy the slip.

. . . Joe, just think what it means to be able to be perfectly frank and sincere and not have to keep part back for fear of appearing eager. You don't know what that means. To know that you'll understand, is such sweet experience for me.

. . . When will your Junior week come? I want to place you and place Schenectady. It's all imagination now. I'd like to know your friends and love the people and places you love. O, I'm greedy - I want to have you share everything with me.

I haven't said a tenth part of it all, but the boy is due.

(a messenger boy to pick up this letter)

A goodnight and happy, happy dreams to you -

Yours,

Bertha

Monday evening

P.S. I shall write you often. Be prepared!

B.D.P.

Thank you, Spy Patroons

The following businesses have paid for advertising for the entire year. We thank them for their commitment to *The Spy* and the community. Please support them by your patronage.

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Didn't Get a Spy?

You can usually pick up a copy of the *Stockade Spy* at: Arthur's Market at the Indian; The Stockade Inn, corner of N. Church and Union Streets; Slick's, corner of S. Ferry and Liberty Streets and The Van Dyck at 237 Union Street.

The *Spy* is also on the web at: www.historicstockade.com

Please report any wrongdoings to the police immediately.

Please Be A Good Neighbor:

For evening stroller safety, keep your porch lights on.

- **Avoid honking car horns**
- **Do not park on sidewalks**
- **Put trash out only at appropriate times**
(Please tell new neighbors to check back page of *The Spy* for trash pick-up dates)
- **Remove emptied trash containers from streets ASAP**
- **Help frail neighbors clean their front yards**
- **Pick up dog poops (in plastic bags)**

Important Numbers

Emergency 911

**Sch'dy Police 382-5200
Police Emergency**

**Trash Collection, Waste
Collection Schedule &
Recycling 382-5144**

Articles that appear in *The Stockade Spy* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Stockade Association Board. of

The Stockade Spy

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**First Editor
Barrie C. Covert**

November Waste Collection Dates

Wednesday, Nov. 8

Thursday, Nov. 16 Monday, Nov. 27

Waste Collection starts at 6:15 AM. Please put waste on the curb only **after 2 PM** the day before. To help keep our neighborhood beautiful, please remove trash cans ASAP from the street when emptied.