



April 2007 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 48 No. 8

How Did Your Stockade Home Look Years Ago?

The recent reprint of the January 31, 1962 Larry Hart article in the *Daily Gazette* and the accompanying photo of then Stockade President, Jim Schmitt, and others taking pictures of Stockade homes, got me thinking about historical Stockade photos and their practical use.

Some of you may remember #7 Washington Avenue when Emily Phelps lived there (now where Mary D'Alessandro and Frank Gilmore live). We moved to the Stockade in 1995, and soon after, I remember visiting Emily, who was in her 90's then. I could tell her home was magnificent in its day, still with its beautiful Victorian furniture.

When Emily passed away and the house was sold to Bill Bibby I would often stop by to chat with him about his plans for the house and follow his progress. He mentioned that he wanted to put the porch railing back to the way it used to be, but didn't know how it had looked.

I recalled the little shoebox of photos at the Historical Society that were taken in 1962 when Jim Schmitt was applying to have the Stockade put on the National Register of Historic Places. The box of photos were all neatly arranged according to street, making it easy

to locate a particular house. I suggested to Bill that I could get a copy of the 1962 photo of his house for him and he could see the original porch railing and spindles.

The librarian and volunteers were so helpful in locating the box and making a photocopy of the photo. Bill was thrilled. Now he not only had a design but also solid proof to show the Historic Commission what he wanted to do, complete with historic authenticity.

This system worked so well that we used it when we were renovating our Cucumber Alley property.

That little grey shoebox of photos was waiting for me. At first I didn't see the tab for Cucumber Alley, only for West Front Street. Of course! In 1962 Cucumber Alley was renamed and later went back to its original name, for the wild cucumbers that still grow there. There was a great photo of the house.

We used it to put back the original columns framing the garages, and also for our meeting with the Historic Commission.

There are lots of other old house photos at the Historical Society.

Have fun looking for your house!

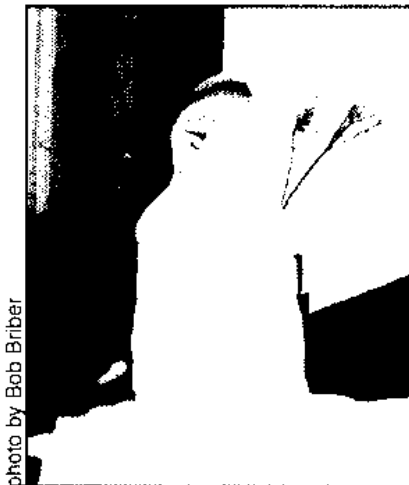


photo by Bob Briber

Owen McLaughlin & Jennifer Murray's snowman melts away as we say... "Hello Spring!"

STOCKADE EVENTS - note your calendar!

- • • • •
- **Neighborhood Watch Training** - Tuesday, April 10 (see page 8)
- **Stockade Association General Meeting** - Thursday, May 8
- **Spring Planting Day** - Saturday, May 19
- **Sidewalk Sale** - Saturday, June 9
- **Stockader Villagers' Outdoor Art Show** - Saturday, September 8
- **Walkabout & Waterfront Faire** - Saturday, September 29
- • • • •

- Sylvie Briber

MaySpy

Deadline

April 11

Calendar In and Around the Stockade

Arthur's Market & World Village Cafe

corner of Front & Ferry Streets. Newly Completed kitchen, open 'til 10 pm nightly with music most nights.

Sun. Apr. 1 noon -Classical Piano Brunch with

Paul Cronin- Debussy, Ravel, Chopin, Satie

Tues. Apr. 3 7-9pm The String Dusters- hot bluegrass

Fri. Apr. 5 7pm 3/4 North - folk rock band

Fri. Apr. 13 7pm Cavanaugh & Kavanaugh - folk duo

Sun. Apr. 15 11am Brunch w/Terri Roben & Linda Hartman

Moon & River Cafe

115 S. Ferry St. 4-11pm 7 days

Fine vegetarian fare and dessert paradise!

Live music at mostly 8 pm & Free.

Sun. Apr. 1 7 pm Pretty Good Folk - brought to you by Powder Milk Biscuits

Wed. Apr. 4 6pm monthly discussion:

"The Great Transformation: From Empire to Peace Justice & Solidarity" host: Lou Ismay

Thur. Apr. 5 6pm Native Night - 1st of monthly Native American Education Series 6pm dinner, 7pm talk by Dave Cornelius

Sat. Apr. 6 7pm Jammin' with Aaron -12 yr. old rocker Aaron Civic. other musicians welcome.

Fri. Apr. 13 7pm out of town musicians Tara, Patti & Sean

Wed. Apr. 18 7pm Jazzmin - classic jazz band - come for dinner

Sat. Apr. 28 7 pm Dyer Switch - top end bluegrass

Open Door Bookstore 128 Jay Street 346-2719

• **Nancy G. Slack** signing "Adirondack Alpine Summits: an Ecological Field Guide" and "AMC Field Guide to the New England Alpine Summits," Sat. April 28, 1-2:30pm

• Rose Kent signing Kimchi & Calamari, Sat., April 21, 1-2:30pm

Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Avenue 374-0263.

• Sat. April 14, 1:30pm refreshments, 2:20 Program, "**Schenectady's Bottle History**," with John Rudzinski, local collector and bottle historian with many of his bottles dating back to the Erie Canal days. Bottles were more than just containers-they also helped advertise their wares. Sometimes discarded bottles are the only tangible evidence of long lost businesses and products once abundant in the Schenectady area.

Schenectady County Community College

78 Washington Ave. 381-1250 www.sunysccc.edu

• **Italian Dinner featuring Joseph Carr Wine tasting and Musicians of Ma'alwyck Concert**, Tues., April 10, 6 pm, Van Curler & Lally Mohawk Rooms, tickets \$50. Call 377-3623 or 377-1606.

• **The SCCC Players present "All's Well, That Ends Well," by William Shakespeare**, Wed., Apr. 11, Thurs. Apr. 12, Fri., Apr. 13, Sat., Apr. 14. 7:45pm pre-show lecture by Prof. Sandra Boynton, Director, 8pm performance. Also, Fri., Apr. 13, 2pm pre-show lecture & 2:15 performance. Free for Wed. perform.

All other performances \$5 general public; \$3 senior & non-SCCC students; free for SCCC students, faculty, staff & alumni. Tickets at door, one hour before curtain. Group tickets, 381-1355.

• **Musicians of Ma'alwyck Concert Preview**, Thurs., Apr. 19, 11:30am, Begley Bldg, Rm. 160 Free.

• **Capital Region Wind Ensemble Concert** Sun., Apr. 22, 3:00pm. Community Aud. tickets, \$8 general public; \$6 students. Call 381-1231.

• **SCCC Wind Ensemble**

Fri., Apr. 27, 7:30pm, Auditorium. Free.

• **SCCC Guitar Ensemble**

Mon., Apr. 30, 7:30pm Auditorium. Free.

Historic St. George's Episcopal Church

30 North Ferry Street, 374-3163

Holy Week and Easter:

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday (April 1) morning prayer 8:30, liturgy of palms & mass 9:00
Monday, April 2 morning prayer; 8:30 noon prayer evening prayer 5:30

Tuesday, April 3 morning prayer 8:30; noon prayer evening prayer 5:30; mass 6:00

Wednesday, April 4 morning prayer 8:30; mass 9:00 noon prayer, evening prayer 5:30

Maundy Thursday, April 5 morning prayer 8:30; adoration noon; evening prayer 5:30; Lord's Supper 7:30; Maundy Thursday Watch, following - ending 8:30 am Friday.

Good Friday, April 6 morning prayer 8:30; liturgy & Mass of Pre-Sanctified 12:15

Holy Saturday, April 7 morning prayer 8:30; pro-anaphora 9:00; confessions 10:00 (Holy Family Chapel)

The Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter, April 7, 7:30pm; Annual Easter Banquet Following

Easter Sunday, April 8 morning prayer 8:30; Easter Mass of the Resurrection 9:00am.

Metroplex's Gillen Addresses Stockaders

- Beverly Elander



Ray Gillen

Metroplex Chairman Ray Gillen spoke to a general meeting of the Stockade Association March 8, 2007 at the Historical Society. Covering on a wide range of current projects in the City, Gillen highlighted the recently publicized \$50 million 60-acre ALCO site reconstruction. A balanced combination of office buildings, condos, recreational areas, and green space, the ALCO site will retain some of its locomotive heritage. A name for the complex is currently being sought.

Development is being undertaken by Preferred Real Estate Investment Inc., a Pennsylvania firm that

specializes in reclaiming and reusing old industrial properties. It is expected that the ALCO project will also help propel the East Front Street Project, with the hope that a green space adjacent to the Mohawk River will stretch virtually from Freeman's Bridge to the Western Gateway Bridge.

Other projects mentioned by Gillen of particular interest to Stockaders were: Van Dyck foreclosure, completion of the Gillette House, Erie Boulevard redesign, construction of a \$700,000 bike trail, continuation of Angelo Mazzone's downtown State Street project, completion of the 6-screen 1400-seat Bow-Tie theater in May, opening of the Big House, relocation of the Schenectady Museum (to be revealed soon), concern about location of residencies for the homeless (with special emphasis on the Mary Hill House), completion of the GE Theater in the former Carl Company, and the controversy over the "table-top" nuclear reactor on the ALCO site.

Metroplex's next targeted area will be Erie Boulevard and lower State Street.

Gillen expressed the hope that Stockade residents would help by supporting the projects he outlined in their conversations with others.

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 _____

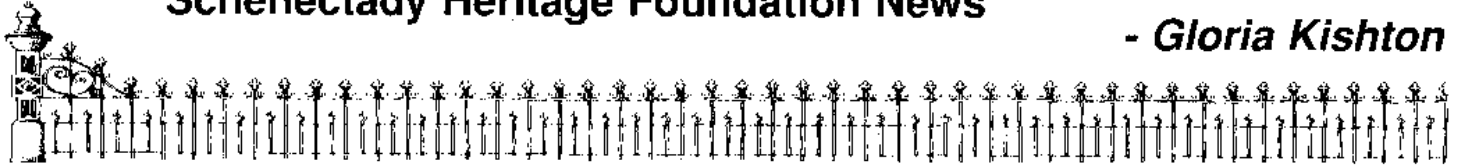
Please make check payable to "**The Stockade Association**" Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

and send to: Stockade Association Treasurer, 10 North Church Street, Schenectady, NY 12305.

Over the Fence

Schenectady Heritage Foundation News

- Gloria Kishton



May is National Historic Preservation Month. Celebrate!

Preservation Awards

The Foundation will honor selected home owners who have completed historic preservation projects on their properties in Schenectady County. If you know of a deserving property, nominations will be accepted during the month of April. Information (address, and if possible, a photo) can be sent to the Foundation at P.O. Box 1173, Schenectady, NY 12301, or, hand delivered to 207 Union Street. Awards will be presented at the annual Award Ceremony in Schenectady City Hall in May. An evening reception for the honorees will follow.

Livable Cities

Watch for more information about this annual series that has promoted what makes cities "livable." This year, "urban exploration" will be emphasized, with planning underway for tours that will include Little Italy, Vale Cemetery, and Alco's past, present and future. Also in the planning stages is a first-ever scavenger hunt followed by a pot-luck dinner, which should prove to be an evening of fun for all ages.

Jay Street Historic District

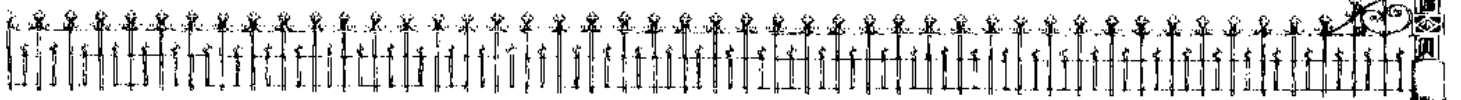
The Foundation reintroduced an application for the establishment of protective historic zoning for Jay Street between State Street and Union Street. So far, the Historic District Commission has approved this zoning change and recommended it to the Planning Commission, which is scheduled to vote on it just as this issue of *The Spy* goes to press.

108 Union Street, former Schenectady County Courthouse

The foundation reintroduced an application for 108 Union Street to be re-included in the Stockade Historic District. So far, the Historic District Commission has approved this zoning change and recommended it to the Planning Commission, which is scheduled to vote on it just as this issue of *The Spy* goes to press. You may remember that the City allowed Al Lawrence to remove this building from the Historic District when he was developing it and connecting it to his new Liberty Street building in the late 1980's. The Foundation is working to reestablish legal protection for this important Schenectady landmark.

Preservation Fair

The Foundation is planning to sponsor its Preservation Fair again as part of the Stockade Walkabout, Saturday, September 29. The tent will be set up in Riverside Park as part of the Waterfront Faire and will include contractors, craftsmen and organizations that promote historic preservation. If you would like to recommend a person, business or group as an exhibitor, please contact Gloria Kishton, Foundation Chair at 377-1160.



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Neighborhood News

David Lowry, Secretary

Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

The following is a summary of the **March 6, 2007 Stockade Association Board Meeting**. For a copy of the full minutes, please contact Board secretary Dave Lowry at: stockadedave@nycap.rr.com

Joe Fava commenced the meeting at 7:00pm. After receiving the minutes and hearing that the financial standing of the Association was strong from treasurer Lyn Gordon, the Board discussed the recent Stockade Brunch. The Board agreed it was a fun event but noted attendance was down in recent years. They agreed to consider holding it every two years to increase interest. The Board also discussed the idea of holding some kind of block party in the future.

Next, members discussed the Mary Hill House situation. Joe reported the YWCA pulled their special use permit application for the March 7 ZBA hearing but resubmitted it for the April hearing. Dave Lowry said the Mary Hill House Committee would meet before the ZBZ hearing to discuss strategy.

Beverly Elander discussed her proposal for a Stockade Cookbook. The Board expressed support and gave Beverly some suggestions for collecting recipes. Lyn Gordon discussed the early plans for the 2007 Walkabout. She reported that 14 people had agreed to various planning committees. She said the Historical Society agreed to handle finances and the Downtown Development Corporation would secure sponsors.

Beverly announced she had around a dozen residents interested in Neighborhood Watch training and she would schedule training for April at Arthur's. She also urged Board members to join.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

(Editor's note: Because of Dave Lowry's absence, board member Mary D'Alessandro graciously agreed to record the meeting summary.)

Joe Fava called the meeting to order at approximately 7:25pm. Mary D'Allessandro introduced Ray Gillen guest speaker. Some highlights of his presentation:

31 new commercial buildings on the tax roll
Schenectady Museum site will be announced shortly
Movie theatre will open approximately May 10th along with The Big House and Angelo's new restaurant. The movie theatre will be running first run tasteful movies with six screens, 1400 seats.

Ray would like support from us (the Association) for the new Alco initiative.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes, Priscilla Gocha made a motion to accept minutes and Bill Gocha seconded. Lyn Gordon presented the Treasurer's report, Jennifer Wells made the motion to accept, and Diane DeMeo seconded.

Joe Fava gave a brief update on the situation of Mary Hill House and our meeting with some council members held at the Stockade Inn. Joe also said that the YWCA should be presenting at next month's ZBA meeting and that if anyone wanted to be there they could come.

Joe also spoke of a special meeting he had attended regarding evacuation of the Stockade in case of a disaster.

Beverly Elander presented forms for Neighborhood Watch. Ltd. Barnes will be at Arthur's on April 10th at 7:00pm for training. Beverly said if anyone is interested to contact her. (see page 9 of *The Spy*.)

Lyn Gordon reported on the Walkabout. The Historical Society withdrew quite a bit from this event but will still be handling the money for us. DSIC made the same decision and does not want to be a one third partner any longer but will still be involved by raising sponsorship. We had a great response from Stockade residents to pick up the slack. We have fourteen new chairmanships. Lyn stated that Preservation was and will be our number one motive.

Joe Fava announced that he and Frank Gilmore were at a meeting for design concepts of walkways and streetscapes within the City.

Beverly Elander spoke about the Stockade Cookbook. She has a form for anyone interested in contributing a recipe. History/Origin of recipe would be included. Pictures will be taken of final product, home and person who contributed recipe.

Joe spoke in a brief discussion of a possible Landlord Interest Group to be developed in the near future but is still being tweaked.

Dale Miller spoke about the plaques for the houses in the Stockade and the sale of the magnets as a fundraiser. There are applications available for the plaques. Contact Dale.

Joe Fava informed us of the Sidewalk Sale which will be held on June 9th. He and Karen Maillia of 9 Washington Ave. will be working on that together.

Joe Fava spoke of Board Member openings coming up and if anyone is interested in serving on the board to contact Mary D'Alessandro, whose number is on the back of *The Spy*.

(continued on page 7)

First You Steal a Chicken . . .

- Beverly Elander

It was a glorious spring day in April with temperatures tickling the 70s. I was raking and pruning in my backyard while Artur Wachala power-washed the deck in preparation for refinishing it - a job that had been neglected for years. I was clipping bits of winterkill off my rose bushes. Since I already had my pruning shears in my gloved hands, I figured I'd go across the street and remove some of the forsythia branches that were hitting my car when I parked. I'd been renting a space in a barn off Green Street since the fall, but with the advent of warmer weather, I moved my car to an area outside.



I carefully cut only a few of the offending fat-budded branches that were poking into the parking area, and gathered them up in my arms to force indoors. As I turned to walk across the street home, a good-looking stranger came up and greeted me. Although I had never met him, I knew immediately that it was Jim Schmitt, owner of the barn and space where I parked - and owner of the forsythia bush I had just

violated. There I was, red-handed, branches of yellow-flowering spring betraying me. So I did the logical thing: I blamed George who had told me the pruning would be ok with Mr. Schmitt. As it turned out, it was. Jim was a complete gentleman, and didn't seem upset at all (despite my repeated apologies). His comforting comment: "Anyone who steals flowers can't be that bad."

During our brief conversation on the walk from the parking area to the street, I learned that the brick barn with the pink and blue doors in which I had been parking (see photo) had apparently been used at some point for wine-making. Jim noted that old wine bottles had been found

on the property, and told me that horse-drawn wagons probably traveled the bricked driveway, loaded up with cases of wine from the barn.

What I forgot to tell Mr. Schmitt was that I was half-Hungarian, and that Hungarians have a reputation for stealing. I recall the opening line of an old recipe for Hungarian chicken soup: "FIRST, you steal a chicken . . ."

The forsythia never bloomed brighter than it did last year.

(Note: as I revise this article, I am anticipating a week-long trip to Budapest, Hungary in mid-March. My maternal grandparents were born in the eastern part of the country, and I am hoping this is just the first of a series of trips designed to experience from heritage first-hand.)

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The True Story Of How Lawrence And His Feathers Were Separated

- Peter Rumora

The Time Was October 31, 2005, also known as Halloween. During the day a bright orange pumpkin was on the stoop of 101 Front and it was about the size of a basketball. First light on November 1 revealed a smashed bright orange basketball size pumpkin on the brick path in front of Lawrence. Lawrence had been defeathered! Several days later the feathers were discovered in the plantings in front of our Indian and were given to Joe Fava who was responsible for eventually having Lawrence and his feathers rejoined!

(Neighborhood News continued from page 5)

Gloria Kishton gave us an update on the Heritage Foundation Business. She wanted to remind all of the upcoming fundraiser, which is on the front of the recent issue of *The Stockade Spy*, on March 31, starting with a 6:00 cash bar, dinner, concert and

dessert for \$60.00 per person. Gloria also stated that the program for livable cities will be in the next *Spy*. (see page 4)

Peter Rumora motioned to adjourn.



photos by Beverly Elander

Snow drifts along Green Street




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Stockade Neighborhood Watch Training

Tuesday, April 10

To date, about a dozen concerned Stockade residents have applied to become members of the Neighborhood Watch. An orientation training session will take place **Tuesday, April 10 from 7 to 8:30 pm** at Arthur's. Stockaders are welcome to attend even if they have not yet completed the one-page application. (see adjacent page) Members of the Watch do not have to commit to a fixed time schedule or to a certain number of hours per week. Being a good Watch member may mean little more than sitting by your window and knowing what to observe.

According to the Schenectady City Police Department website:

- Schenectady's Neighborhood Watch was formed in the late '70's with an initial seven members, working under the direction of Schenectady Police Sergeant Raymond Wemple.

"See it – Hear it – Report it"

- Today, with hundreds of members, the Watch holds meetings in several of Schenectady's neighborhoods, maintains regular patrols, providing information about suspicious activities to the police.
- One service, Child Find, is credited with saving the lives of a number of small children and adults in need of care, and is called several times a month to help police with urgent searches.
- The group provides security for events and for supervised parent/child visits at the Law Order and Justice Center.
- The Neighborhood Watch works under the auspices of the Police Department of the City of Schenectady.

To learn more, go to: Neighborhood Watch at

<http://timesunion.memlink.com/default.aspx>

or call 382-5199 extension *5626.

To Join the Neighborhood Watch please fill out the form on the adjacent page and send to:

Lt. Brian Barnes
Schenectady Police Community Services Unit
531 Liberty Street
Schenectady, NY 12305.

Hope to see many of you at Arthur's April 10th.

- Beverly Elander

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Schenectady Neighborhood Watch

Application for Membership



Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Residential History for the past 5 years:

Address, City, State, and Zip Code: _____ How long at address?

(CURRENT) - _____

Why would you like to join the Neighborhood Watch? _____

Related skills, training, and experiences: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Have you ever been arrested? _____ yes or _____ no.

If yes, give date, location and charge below; use back of page if necessary.

Note: Schenectady Neighborhood Watch is under the direction of the Schenectady Police Department. Membership is subject to approval of the Schenectady Police Department and may be revoked at any time.

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Mail To:

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City Assessor Addresses Stockade Residents

- Beverly Elander

City Assessor Patrick Mastro recently addressed a group of Stockade home-owners at the Historical Society on the reassessment now taking place in Schenectady.

According to the brochure which was distributed:

"A reassessment is the process of re-certifying the value of property of land for tax purposes. New York State's Real Property Tax Law requires all properties in Schenectady to be assessed fairly and at a uniform percentage of market value."

Although there has been some resistance to internal data collection (where data collectors actually enter the home), Mastro explained that while costly, without it, assessment is a "crap shoot."

If the homeowner is not at home, or is unavailable when the data collector arrives, the collector will leave a signed letter with a contact number. The owner may then schedule an appointment that is mutually convenient.

While a home owner has the right to refuse an interior inspection, should (s)he choose to later grieve the assessment, an interior inspection will be

mandated to confirm the information supplied by the homeowner in an effort to lower the assessment.

The Schenectady City website (<http://www.cityofscheneectady.com/reassessment.htm>) and the *Daily Gazette* will publish the locations of the data collectors. Also shown at the City site is a photo of the data collector's police-issued ID badge.

Mr. Mastro estimated that the City's cost for the total project of reassessing 20,500 parcels will be approximately \$700,000.

Numerous questions were raised during the meeting about the concern over the possible increase in property taxes due to the reassessment. Mastro reminded Stockade homeowners that the assessment was based on the "overall" condition of the property, and that cosmetic changes (like new carpeting, wall-paper, etc.), as well as furnishings are not factored in to the assessment.

Residents attending the meeting requested another meeting with the City Assessor for the purpose of learning more about the form used by the data collectors.

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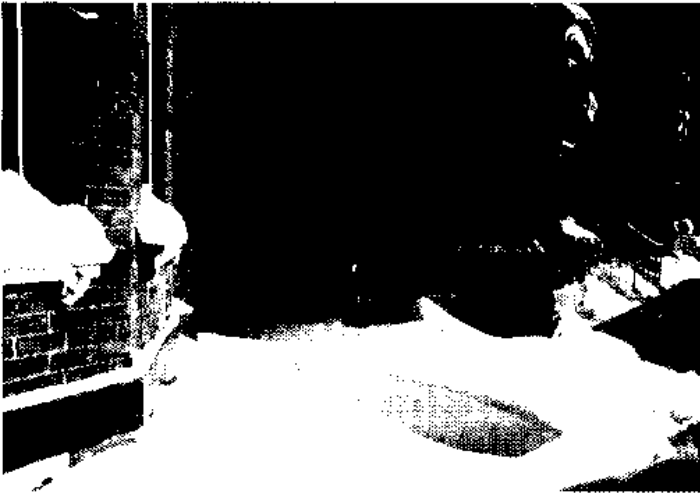
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photos by Beverly Elander



Snow drifts along Green Street

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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 is a sample of one, that proves some things remain the same! Joe did go on to build several houses, and they lived in some of them, one at 1090 Avon Road, at the corner of Wendell.

7:30 P.M. Friday

When you get this, Dearheart, it will be Saturday night, the night that *really* belongs to us. It is just like you to think of flowers for me for Thanksgiving. I'd love to have some - and I'd like chrysanthemums - they are so beautiful now and they keep so well. Thank you so much.

You will be such a dressy young man in your new coat that I won't dare walk abroad with you, in my old brown suit. you will shame me utterly!

And, now Dearheart, let me tell you of my partial interview with Father . . . I gave him my reason for wanting to be married in Jan. - that it would be better for us both as long as we had made up our minds how we would live, i.e. - well within our income. And, I spoke of your work and of the strain it was on us both and of how you had to carve your way along and you needed me - and needed to be taken away from your Father just now. Then we spoke of your work and I said you were always on the look out for something to work in with your contract work and that you had many ideas in your head and were always on the lookout - but that I didn't want to tell him anything about them because they were only ideas so far - but that you would be glad to tell him anything that you knew that he wanted to know.

He took it all as a matter of fact - and only opposed one thing. It was the very thing I said at first. He said he shouldn't approve of our starting in housekeeping at once. He said that there is more concerning starting housekeeping than we dream of and that he thinks we ought to move slowly - and take time - that for a month or two (he even said towards summer) that we could see how things were - and we could get what we were going to always want (meaning household furnishings) and that it would be much wiser. He said that I would have all I could do to get married and get my linens and wedding invitations, etc. - in this time - and that it would be foolish to rush matters so. He thinks we ought to board for a while. Do you remember I said that at first? It was because this plan of going to housekeeping at once is contrary to all our principles. It would mean double haste in buying things that we want to get slowly and want to decide about - so that we won't want to throw away and decide over a few years later - particularly the whole household arrangements of kitchen, etc. It would take a pressure off if I tho't we could board somewhere for a little while and decide about our new home (I mean our rented flat) after we are married and our minds at leisure, than before we are married. Apparently Father sees it too, because he was unusually firm (for him) in his opposition. Of course, he has been thro' it - so he knows.

I told him that we wanted to have our own home and would rather pay interest than rent, but I didn't say more than that. I didn't tell him that we hoped to build this spring - I tho't perhaps you'd rather not have me. . . I told him not to say anything to Mother because we didn't want it noised abroad until you had found out exactly where you stood - with your Father - and until you had had a chance to talk with him. He won't say a word. Apparently he had rather expected this early marriage for sometime.

. . .and now, my own Dearheart, rest as best you can - I'm loving you every minute and thinking of you and praying for you - I love you so - Dear Dearheart. EKYUXNS B.

East Front Street News

- John Rotundo

On a chilly afternoon this past winter, I had an unexpected visitor . . . With a surreal look of enthusiasm, David Brunetti pointed to my driveway and said that he has a film taken in the 50's of he and his brother riding bikes on this driveway! "I grew up in this house," he said. Other memories came flooding back as he entered the front door of the house he spent his first eight years in.

Hearing about my house's past life I learned that David's father and Uncle built the addition that has become such an important part of my home. He told me to call his Uncle Mac who would remember everything.

Named Americo by his father who loved his new country dearly, talking with "Mac" Brunetti was like time traveling. His parents bought the house I now call home around 1928. Massimo and Maria Brunetti came from a seaside village north of Naples called Ancona. They found their way to the little canal town of Schenectady and eventually to Monroe Street.

It was Maria who was enterprising and had the idea to buy the two houses next door, #5 and #7. Meanwhile Mac was a teenager and did a lot of work on the building - including the addition I now use everyday. The cellar was extended at that time and

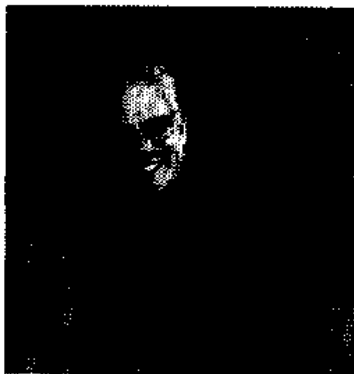
Maria made wine there. "Some years she would make as many as 15 barrels!" Mac said, sounding like he really missed it.

Mac remembers neighbors by name, the boxing ring on the Boulevard (which Mary Ann Ruscitto is doing research on) and the history from the days when there were few houses and the land was known as the Rosa Farm. Mac told me #9 and #7 Monroe St. were built for the workers of the farm.

It is awesome to hear of the old days, I envision the puzzle of a small community coming together to create a fantastic picture . . . and now it is exciting to report two developments that will make the picture excel! Eco Radio Network will establish residency in the old Ward Tavern. They will record and produce live radio broadcasts on saving money and the ecology. It will also serve as an internet cafe!! Also recently revealed is the phenomenal headline news that a Pennsylvania based private developer will spend more than \$50 million to transform the former American Locomotive Site into 1.5 miles of waterfront development for housing, recreation and commercial use!! Could this be our vision of Venice on the Mohawk!! - Now that would make Massimo and Maria proud!

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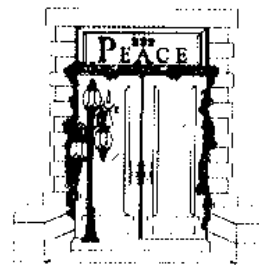
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Planning to Do Some Outside Repairs & Painting? Get your paperwork done for Spring projects

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 2007:

<u>Application deadline</u>	<u>Review meeting</u>
April 2	April 16
May 7	May 21
June 4	June 18
July 2	July 16
August 6	August 20
September 3	September 17
October 1	October 15
November 5	November 19
December 3	December 17

Birds of the Stockade



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With the coming of spring on its way we should be seeing different species starting to show up such as Red wing Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Eastern Phoebe, to name a few. Keep your ears open for Drumming Woodpeckers, Mourning Doves and Northern Cardinals.

- James L. Taft AKA Captain Eagle Eyes



**Spring 2007
Open House**
Wednesday, April 25
3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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If you consistently do not get a *Spy*, please call our delivery guy, **Josh Mlodzianowski** at 382-7654.

Important Numbers

- **Stockade Officer - Kevin Green 378-6536**
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- **Emergency 911**
- **Non-emergencies 382-5263**
- **Police Emergency 382-5200**
- **Trash Not Picked up**
Solid waste - 386-2225
hotline 382-5144
- **Code Enforcement - 382-5050**
- **Waste Collection Schedule & Recycling 382-5144**

Please Be A Good Neighbor:

For safety, keep your front and back 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 cantainers ASAP**
- **Help trail neighbors clean their front yards**
- **Pick up dog poops (in plastic bags)**
- **Report wrongdoings to the police ASAP**

April Waste Collection Dates

All Fridays April 6, 13, 20, 27

You can pick up your 2007 schedule at City Hall. 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 sidewalk when emptied.

The Stockade Spy

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