



February 2009 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 50 No. 6

Stockaders invited to Damien Center Open House Tuesday, Feb. 10 5:30 - 7:30pm

Dear Neighbors,

Several Stockade residents have asked about the Schenectady Damien Center so I am writing to share with you some current information. The Center is a program of the Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM), a coalition of 58 area congregations reflecting 14 Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations. SICM was started over 40 years ago and is most well known for the SICM Food Program (Food Pantry) at 839 Albany Street.

The Schenectady Damien Center is 15 years old and moved this past year from one Stockade location, in the former rectory of Holy Cross Church on North College Street, to another, on North Ferry Street in the first and second floors of the former youth center (and former curate's residence) on the campus of St. George's Episcopal Church. We appreciate the hospitality of St. George's congregation in making this move possible.

The Schenectady Damien Center is a drop-in community center for individuals and families in Schenectady who are living with HIV and AIDS. Individuals are either living with the virus or with families affected by it.

I began my work as the Program Manager of the Center in April, in large part due to the generosity of the First Reformed Church's new Missioner program. Since that time, I have come to know the guests of the Schenectady Damien Center, and I am continually inspired by their strength and perseverance in the face of this chronic and life-threatening illness. I am grateful for this opportunity to be of service to those in need in my community.

Unfortunately, there is still no cure for HIV/AIDS and the stigma associated with it persists; many of our guests at the Schenectady Damien Center have few people to whom they can go to for help. Our mission at the Center is to provide a safe, welcoming environment for people living with HIV/AIDS to *(continued on page 2)*

Feb. Food Drive at FCSS

Our quiet Stockade neighbor, Family & Child Service of Schenectady, has been helping those who have difficulty meeting life's everyday challenges, from its townhouse headquarters at 246 Union Street, for over 60 years. The not-for-profit agency's staff of social workers, counselors and trained homemakers has already seen how hard the current economic crisis is hitting the families and low-income elderly they serve.

Having enough to eat each day is one urgent challenge for many of FCSS's clients, as it is for thousands of other Capital Region residents, who increased their use of food pantries and soup kitchens by 35 percent in the last six months of 2008. To help their clients and area food pantries meet those needs, FCSS has decided to hold a month-long community Food Drive in February.

Family & Child Service urges the public to join in this effort by bringing non-perishable food items of all kinds to 246 Union Street (across from the Van Dyck), throughout the month of February, Monday - Friday, between the hours of 8 am - 4 pm. Donations will be distributed to needy clients in the FCSS Medicaid Services Coordination program, which serves families with a developmentally disabled child or youth; to low-income seniors through the B'nai B'rith *(continued on page 2)*



Ice Blossoms on Wash. Ave. Dec. Storm - photo by David Giacalone

• • • • • **March Spy Deadline**
 • **Neighborhood Watch Meeting, Tuesday, February 24 7pm Arthur's Market** • **Feb. 15**
 • • • • •

Neighborhood News

Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

Stockade Association Board meeting January 6, 2009 summary

- Board discussed options of reducing cost of producing *Spy* and options for distribution to members and neighbors. Sylvie reports she welcomes more ads to help defray productions costs. Color will be used as funds allow.
- Treasurer Greg Sauer presented treasurer report and asked board to look at concrete ways to use reserve funds to help Association reach some of its goals.
- George Marshall, chair of Membership Committee reported that letters will be sent to recent Association members with a reminder that renewals for 2008-2009 are due. Currently there are 130 members.
- David Marhafer reports By-laws Committee will have recommended changes for review at February Board meeting, by annual May meeting.
- Greg Sauer gave a brief summary of infrastructure proposal regarding burying utilities and a dig once strategy for the Stockade Neighborhood. After discussion proposal received unanimous support from the Board. Board thanked Greg for his work and will encourage this to be given priority in goals of the organization.
- Lyn Gordon reports that hook-up of electricity at the Indian is now completed. Utility cost will be paid by the city.
- After an update from Beth Petta on Historic Street sign project, board voted to advance the project \$5040 to purchase the street signs. Effort will continue to raise sponsors for signs and brackets. Cost for each sign and brackets are \$219. A poster updating progress on fund-raising efforts will be posted at Arthurs Market. Donations to the Stockade Association are tax deductible.
- Board discussed a request to apply for CDBG funds to support some recommendations of the 2020 plan for the Stockade Neighborhood.
- Board discussed options for rental of storage space.

Minutes, Stockade Association General Membership Meeting January 8, 2009

- Meeting called to order by President Lyn Gordon at 7:30pm.
 - Secretary's report of November meeting was approved as published in the January *Spy*.
 - Treasurer report of funds in checking account and long term investment account was presented.
- Most of the meeting time was devoted to a presentation by Greg Sauer on a proposal to develop plan to approach city and others to bury all utilities when the city replaces roads, sidewalks and curbs. (see January *Spy* article) Greg discussed research he had done on other communities, outlined what would be needed and proposed some options for funding. Members present had questions about role of DSIC and MetroPlex, and design details. Discussion included who else to enlist in developing plans and what expertise is available to assist this volunteer effort. There was enthusi-

asm about how to enlist GE and others at RPI in an effort to make this a green project for new streetlamps and if it could be expanded to include water and sewer conservation through water meters. All agree lots of ideas will be generated in this project as it moves forward. Recognize that pursuing this project will be a major use of Neighborhood energy and we need many to step forward and get involved in this or other activities. Those with special skills like grant-writing, civil engineers, architectural needed as volunteers.

Members present unanimously approved motion of support. "The members of the Stockade enthusiastically supports the Board's proposed strategy for improving the streetscape of the Stockade Historic District by undergrounding utilities and accelerating the City's curb, pavement and sidewalk replacement program and directs the Board to pursue this initiative as its highest priority activity." Volunteers are needed to help Greg and committee to move this forward. Greg reminded group first Association meeting 51 years ago proposed this same vision and now we need to be prepared to finally put vision into action but he needs lots of help. A sign-up sheet was circulated but interested neighbors should contact him.

Open Forum

- Concern over Arthurs Market sale as described in Gazette article
 - Lyn announced new chairs of Walkabout, Bruce Jordan and Joanie Bessarab
 - Neighbor raised concern about some neighbors who do not clear snow from sidewalk. Lyn will speak to any business that does not clear sidewalk.
 - Reminder that Poor Soldier Opera will be Jan 23-24 at SCCC.
 - George Marshall reminded group this is a good time to join the Association as lots is happening and members have a voice.
 - Poster showing fund raising progress on Historic Street sign project is in window at Arthurs market.
- Motion to adjourn at 8:44pm.

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Demo and Press Kit

- James Krakat

Happy New Year! It is 2009 and it is time to get out there and get gigs. One of the most important ways to get noticed is through your Demo and press kit.

What is a Demo and Press Kit?

The Demo is what demonstrates your ability as a Musician, Actor, Artist, Videographer, Web-Designer etc. The demo should be no longer than 3 minutes and should show your strongest points, and capabilities. For example if you are a voice talent, and impressions is your niche, then your demo should give a variety of impressions that you can do. Make sure that your demo is on CD or DVD, and do not e-mail it unless the company you are seeking work from requests that form of media and delivery. By having your demo on a professional looking CD or DVD tells the person you are seeking work from, that you care about your appearance, and you take pride in your work.

The Press Kit is a book that shows photos, articles, stories, achievements, resumes and past experiences. The press kit is usually no longer than 10 pages. Formatting is

very important when setting up your press kit as well. The first piece of information that should appear on the press kit is a photo of you, and your contact information. Your contact information should be on each page of your press kit, and the last page should once again be dedicated to your contact information. The reason for the repetitiveness is to embed your name and information into the mind of the person viewing your press kit. The press kit should also be made into a book, which can be done very affordably at your local print shop, or Staples.

Remember no matter what field of work you are searching for, presentation professionalism, and persistence are keys to Success.

For more information on Demos and Press Kits or to be featured in next months article contact:
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Jazz Vespers - Feb. 15, 5 p.m.
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Minutes: Neighborhood Watch Meeting December 23

- Beverly Elander



The following information was sent to members of the Neighborhood Watch on December 3:

At the December 2, 2008 meeting of the Stockade Board, President Lyn Gordon discussed the 11 goals for 2009 outlined by the Board's

Vision Committee (see page 2 in the Dec 2008 Spy). Board members were appointed to oversee each goal. Because of the progress made during the last year and a half by the Stockade Neighborhood Watch, it was suggested that I accept responsibility for Goal #7:

Outreach to neighbors for property clean-up.

Our emphasis on observing the neighborhood, as well as on organizing walking (ably organized by Linda Muralidharan) puts us in a position to identify properties needing attention—the first step in achieving Goal #7.

NW member Susan Tyler has offered to design and keep a spreadsheet as a record of crime in the Stockade. Perhaps she would be willing to add "properties in need of clean-up" to her document.

At any rate, I'm hoping we can spend a little time during our December 23 meeting to address the feasibility of this year-long Stockade goal. Perhaps we might consider appointing a smaller group to deal with it during the course of the following year.

Nine committed Neighborhood Watch members attended the December 23 meeting at Arthur's, and dedicated most of the meeting time to addressing the task described above. Essentially, the plan is for the NW to identify properties in need of clean-up. Owners would be contacted, and, if willing, matched with reliable residents of the YMCA to help with clean-up. Property owners would reimburse Y residents with a modest pay. It was noted by one NW member that clients at Bethesda House might also be available to work.

The following preliminary discussion of the task took place:

• Good points

1. Workers could be screened
2. Feedback could be given
3. Some property owners might be interested

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• Potential problems

1. Landlords may not care to participate
2. Landlords may be unwilling to pay workers

• Publicity

At some point (but not yet), project could be posted on the Yahoo list

- Possible ID of property in need of attention
114 N Ferry St

The meeting ended with a brief listing of other recent Stockade problems:

- Locations of suspected drug sales were identified. This information has been reported to the police.
- Stockade residents are encouraged to report incidences of pan-handling to the police via the non-emergency number (382 5265).
- Police presence in the Stockade continues to be noticed.
- Recent ice storm with the 4-day power outage in the neighborhood caused neighbors to reach out to each other to offer help.

Future meetings (4th Tuesday of every month) of the Neighborhood Watch are:

- February 24
- March 24
- April 28
- May 26
- June 23
- July 28

- August 25 (may be replaced by city-wide National Night Out Aug 4)

All meetings are 7-8pm at Arthur's Market. Please attend and support a safe Stockade.

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Calendar In and Around the Stockade



Jeffrey Hatcher's "Murderers" by Schenectady Civic Players Jan. 30 - Feb. 1 & Feb. 4 - 8

Three uniquely funny killers are giving their takes on crimes of passion set in a Florida retirement home. These perfect crimes entail blackmail, jealousy, sex and, of course, murder. Who will survive?

"Murderers" is directed by Barry Corlew and presented in one Act with three scenes. Barry describes the show: "It's a wonderful quirky

play about three very different characters who murder people, but they have their reasons which they give us in a delicious way!" Several Stockaders have worked to make this a great show: Duncan Morrison, set design; Jeffrey Scott, lighting design; and Joe Fava, costume design.

The Playhouse blog for audience members to share reviews, thoughts, insights and comments on the production is at <http://civicplayhouse.blogspot.com/>

The historic Civic Playhouse is set in the Stockade at 12 South Church Street. Curtain is evenings at 8, Sunday matinees at 2:30pm. Call the box office at 382-2081 or visit www.civicplayers.org for tickets.



Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Ave. 374-0263 Mon.-Fri. 1-5; Sat. 10-2

Sat., Feb. 7 "In Good Olde Colonie Days" by Rich Bala. Through songs from the waterways, lumber camps, farms and homes of those who helped shape the legacy of our folk culture, visit "New Netherland" and early New York State from the time of the first native residents to the Early Dutch and then the English during the Colonial Period. Rich has performed with Pete Seeger, Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, among others. 1:30pm refreshments; 2pm program.

Sat., Feb. 14 "Traveling the New York City African American Experience 1623-1830," this slide/presentation by Dr. Sherrill D. Wilson focuses on the people, places and events that highlight the history of the African's presence in 17th and 18th century New York City, making up the 2nd largest group of enslaved people in colonial America, second only to Charleston, S.C. Dr. Wilson, an Urban Anthropologist is the author of "New York City's African Slave Owners," lecturing at the Smithsonian Institute, Columbia University, and the American Museum of Natural History. 1:30pm refreshments; 2pm program.

First Reformed Church Vacation Bible School

Looking for something to do over winter break? The First Reformed Church will be hosting a Vacation Bible School, February 16-20 from 3pm to 5pm. Children ages 5-95 are welcome. There will be bible stories, skits, singing, arts and crafts, and games for all. Come and warm up with our Rain Forest Adventure! Call the church office to reserve a spot, 377-2201.

Moon & River Cafe

115 S. Ferry St. 382-1938

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Call or stop in for a complete calendar of February events!

- Tues. Feb. 3 7pm Bob Johnson Memorial /8pm String Dusters
- Fri. Feb. 6 8pm 3/4 North - bluegrass to Beatles
- Tues. Feb. 10 8pm Catherine Norr - folksinger
- Sat. Feb. 21 7pm Poets Corner - all writers welcome
- Sat. Feb. 21 8pm Steve Scarlata/songwriter, former Stockader

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3 Washington Avenue
377-0331

February Waste Collection Dates

Wed., Feb. 4

Wed., Feb. 11

Thurs., Feb. 19

Thurs., Feb. 26

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.

Think Spring. Think Green. Think Local.

Perhaps you have seed catalogs arriving or have been inspired by local vegetables you've purchased at Schenectady's Greenmarket. The Garden Committee of the Stockade Association is committed to helping interested neighbors grow their own vegetables in a Stockade community garden. If you have a green thumb and no space, or have memories of a Victory Garden, or if you have experience with urban gardening, please let us know. A meeting is being planned for later in February to bring neighbors together who have a seed catalog and a dream to discuss what's possible. Imagine growing and sharing herbs, greens and fresh produce here in the neighborhood. If you have ideas, experience and interest in helping this happen, please contact Carol DeLaMarter at 393-4725 or cdelam6533@aol.com.

Important Numbers

•**Emergency 911**
•**Non-emergencies 382-52675**

•**Stockade Officers -**
Ptl. Brendan Barrett
4pm- midnight
Officer Disbrow - 8am-4pm
call non-emergency # &
request them

•**Police Emergency 382-5200**

•**Trash Not Picked up**
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hotline 382-5144
Code Enforcement -382-5050
Waste Collection Schedule
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Please report any wrongdoings to the police immediately and request that your call be added to

The Daily Report.

The Stockade Spy

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Stockade Association Membership 2008-9

If you would like to join the Association and contribute to worthy neighborhood projects, please send a check (\$15 per person, \$20 per household) made out to The Stockade Association to:

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