

painting by Frank Gilmore



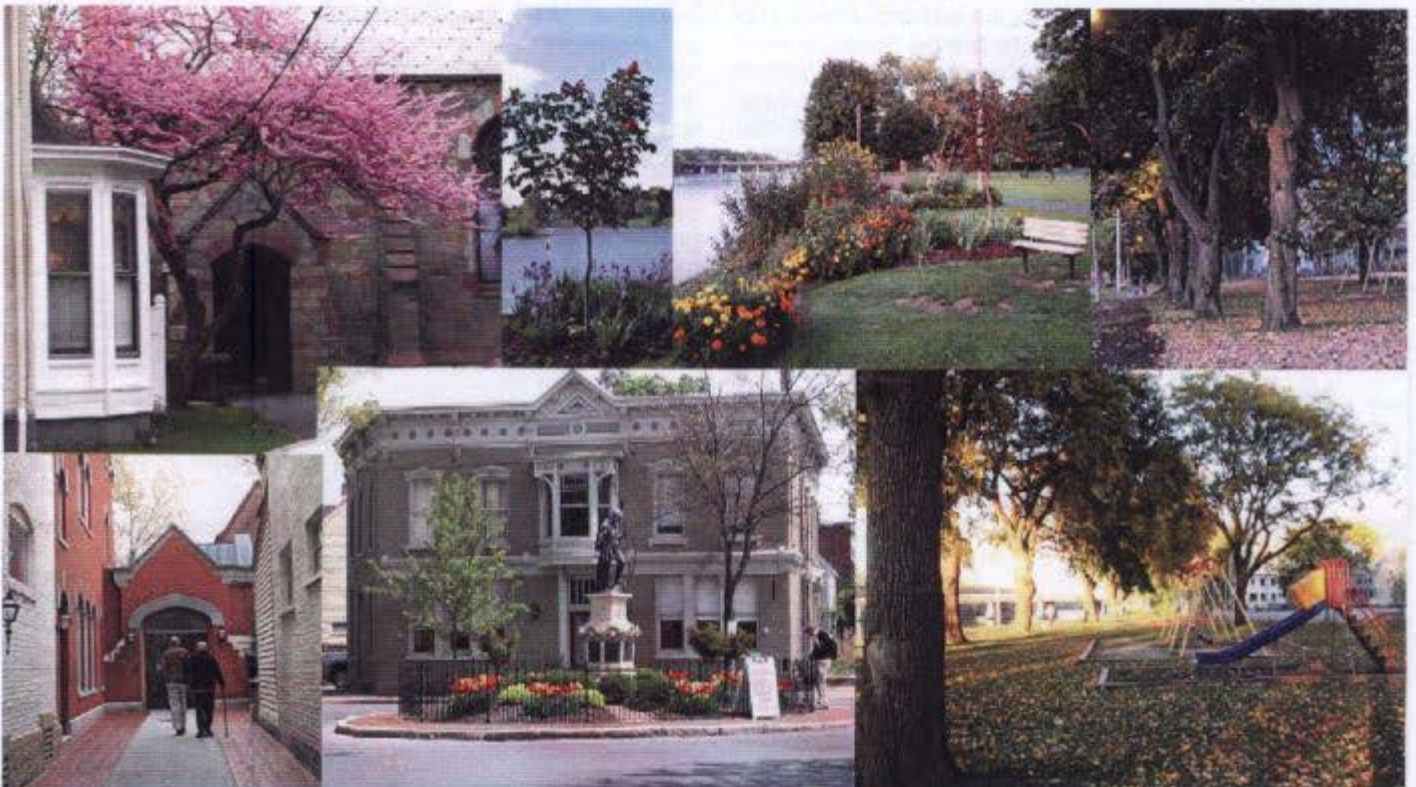
## Stockade Soiree slated for September 13

The Social Destination of the year describes the Stockade Soiree, themed to the Early Hollywood Era. The event will include dining, dancing and the inevitable "Red Caplet" entrance. This year it does not matter if it rains as the newly rescued and renovated Van Dyck (see page ??) is hosting the Soiree. The Van Dyck opened on the first of April in 1947 and has been an integral part of the Stockade for 62 years. The date is September 13, 2009 from 5:00pm.

Anyone who attended last year will tell you it was a great party and a few changes have been made to raise it up a notch. But it is more than just a good time - all funds raised by the event will be added to the \$7,500 raised last year and are dedicated to initiatives undertaken in partnership with the City and County of Schenectady: projects that will preserve and promote the Stockade as a world class Historical Destination.

Photos by David Giacalone

## Stockade Beauty



• Stockade Association General Meeting Thursday, May 14 see page 3  
 • Neighborhood Watch Meeting, Tues., May 26 7pm Arthur's Market see p. 8  
 • Stockade Sidewalk Sale June 6 9am - 4pm see page 5

Spy staff on vacation

Sept. Spy Deadline  
August 15

cousins (1 to r) Michael, Jeff and Billy McDonald from 2nd floor balcony

## "New" Van Dyck

- Beverly Elander



When I think of prominent restaurateurs in the area, I think of the letter "M" — McDonald, Mallozi, Mazzone. If I narrow the geographical area to the Stockade, McDonald wins: Pinhead Susan's, the Stockade Inn, and by mid-June, the venerable Van Dyck.

In its heyday, the Van Dyck was synonymous with fine jazz: Bucky Pizzarelli, Red Norvo, Lee Shaw, Dizzy Gillespie, Earl Hines, Coleman Hawkins, and my beloved Dave McKenna. In my early teaching days when I lived in a lovely third floor apartment at 22 Washington Avenue, I recall walking to the Van Dyck on a sweet-scented warm spring Tuesday evening, sidling up to the table nearest the piano, and swooning over McKenna's artistry. Sometimes, he would play my then favorite "Emily" without prompting (a song which reminded me of two favorite students, both "Emily," both with Stockade connections).

Marvin Friedman opened the restaurant in 1947 and watched over it like a benevolent uncle. But when he died, the establishment changed hands at least twice, and despite renovations, eventually neglect brought the once grand jazz venue to its knees. Not even the new 65 foot mahogany bar (the club's original circular oak bar from the 1800s, which came from the historic Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga Springs, was moved up to the second floor, where it will continue to hold court), 18 foot skylight, and a brewery could save the Van Dyck from closing its doors.

Enter the McDonalds. With the successful renovation and re-establishment of both Pinhead's and the Stockade Inn to their credit, the McDonald family purchased the forlorn VanDyck with the intent of restoring it as a historical building in the Stockade, as well as returning the establishment to a place where fine food,

service and music are presented in an equally fine neighborhood.

I was invited by Jeff McDonald one recent afternoon to view the progress at the soon-to-be-opened restaurant/club. To my untrained eye, the building looked nowhere ready for a Grand Opening in two months, but Jeff assured me the "hard" work in the infrastructure (like the new roof, relocation of rest-rooms, and removal of the staircase in the entryway) had been completed, and the mostly cosmetic redesign (mosaic tiles in the entryway, glass tiles on the fireplace, new carpeting) could be completed relatively quickly. Landscaping the patio will follow, and Jeff expects the brewery will eventually be brought back to life.

McDonald expects the menu—which will include gourmet pizzas and paninis—will be essentially the same regardless of where the customer dines, lounge area or one of the dining rooms, except for slightly lighter fare on the second floor where most of the entertainment (both local and national jazz, blues, comedy) will be held.

I asked about staffing, and while Jeff wasn't prepared to be specific, he did indicate that at least some of the staff would come from the Stockade Inn and Pinhead Susan's. Cousin Michael McDonald, known for his robust Dirty Martinis at the SI offered the information that he would be operating the bar, as well as holding a managerial position at the Van Dyck. A family designed, owned and operated establishment, Cousin Billy McDonald of Pinhead's was also on hand the day I visited to offer his thoughts about the project. All three cousins live in the Stockade.

According to Jeff, the Van Dyck promises to be "an historical building with a comfortable feel." He expects the final product will be "what people want," offering a little of the best of both already established venues. The McDonalds are aware that the Van Dyck is an entrance to the Historic Stockade, and they believe it will be worthy of this lovely neighborhood. Said Jeff: "The VanDyck will make the Stockade an even more attractive place for residents."

The new black awning with gold lettering will be a fitting welcome for the "Early Hollywood" themed Soiree guests September 13, as well as heralding the Van Dyck as the "gateway to the Stockade and a bridge from downtown."



Second floor balcony looking into main entertainment area



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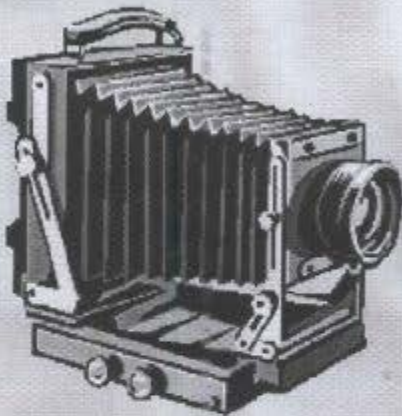
# Stockade Association General Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Different Location - First Reformed Church, Assembly Hall

7:00pm Social - Recognition for Sign Project  
Meet your neighbors, enjoy refreshments

7:30pm Meeting



*"Lights, Camera, Action!"*

District Attorney Bob Carney &  
Better Neighborhood Director Ed August  
Talk about Surveillance Cameras

- Voting on By-Law Revisions
- Election of Officers

*Bring a Friend!*

## Be Sure To Have Your Voice Heard.

The newly revised "Constitution and Bylaws" for the Stockade Association will be voted on at the General Meeting on May 14, 2008.

The revision committee, Greg Sauer, Jennifer Wells, Jean Zegger, and chaired by David Marhafer, have spent this membership year working to streamline and make consistent and useful a document to follow for many years to come. The Board has approved the proposed revisions and the new "Constitution and Bylaws" was the focus of the March General Meeting.

Copies of the proposed "Constitution and Bylaws" are available electronically at [historicstockade.com](http://historicstockade.com) and just follow the links. Any member in good standing who is unable to access an electronic copy may reach David Marhafer at 377-0331 to secure a hard copy.

**COME TO THE GENERAL MEETING TO HAVE YOUR VOTE COUNT.**

## Planting Day in Riverside Park Saturday, May 16, 9am-noon

Join neighbors on Saturday, May 16th for Planting Day in Riverside Park. We need your help planting hundreds of annuals in the flower beds enjoyed by everyone throughout the summer. Work begins after 9am and we'll finish by noon and provide lunch and drinks. Bring gloves and a trowel and we'll provide the rest. Report to the Washington Ave. end of the park and we'll find work for you to do.



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# People of the Stockade - Bruce Jordan

- Beverly Elander

Bruce Jordan standing next to Al Hirschfeld caricature of *Shear Madness* co-author Marilyn Abrams and himself



Stockade resident Bruce Jordan admitted to being "a little frantic." "I've never done three shows this close," he admitted. His "show," is *Shear Madness*, a "wacky whodunit" which will open the 2009-2010 season at Capital Repertory Theatre June 5 and run through the month. Along with artistic partner Marilyn Abrams, Bruce adapted the play "Scherenschnitt" by German writer and psychologist Paul Portner, and the adaptation opened as *Shear Madness* in 1978 in Lake George. When I spoke to Bruce recently, he had just returned from an April 14 opening in Charlotte, and was on his way to Las Vegas, where the comedy will open May 8.

Set in a unisex hair salon, an off-stage murder provides the backdrop for an ever-changing show. According to its website ([www.shearmadness.com](http://www.shearmadness.com)): "The actors followed a basic format and changed the specific lines along the way. Now, decades later, *Shear Madness* incorporates not only the contributions of the audience [the incredibly versatile actors improvise within the fixed structure of the play], but also frequent references to the latest media scandals and local news items." The result, according to Jordan, is that the play is always fresh for both the audience and the cast—at least one new item is incorporated in each performance.

"Kicking the recession news into the curb," this comedy has great appeal to all ages and levels of sophistication, explained Bruce, adding, "comedy, unlike tragedy, you can evaluate second by second via the audience laughter. If it doesn't work by the third trial, the line is booted because it is either mis-written, mis-acted—or not funny."

The formula must be working, because *Shear Madness* has been the longest running non-musical theatrical production in Boston, Washington DC, and Chicago (to name only a few locations).

Jordan rewrites the play for each venue and each time. Half the actors are imported from previous SM productions and the other half must be local. The veterans translate what has worked previously in the show, while the locals know the area and people.

Originally a high school teacher in Glens Falls, Bruce has designed, directed, and played the lead in the numerous productions of *Shear Madness*, including the original in Lake George.

Burlesque in nature and "wildly entertaining," the show requires no "bad words" to make it funny. The essence of improv, explained Jordan, is to accept what the audience has offered, to go with it, and always to let the audience win.

Requests to produce *Shear Madness* come in from all over the world, but are limited because one of the staff must direct the show in order to maintain artistic control. I asked Bruce how long it took to rehearse the cast. He replied that the first 3-4 days are spent with him and the actors "just talking to each other." He quoted a director who was once asked: How long does it take to rehearse a show? "Exactly the time you have," was the response.

When not supervising *Shear Madness*, Mr Jordan is attending to details as co-chair of this year's Stockade Walk-About. Last year, his 1970s Paul Schaefer-designed house was offered on the Stockade Secret Garden Tour.

[\*\*from the 2009-2010 Capital Rep brochure  
*Shear Madness* runs every day but Tuesdays from June 5-28. Tickets are \$36-46. Please go to [www.capitalrep.org](http://www.capitalrep.org) for more details]

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# Neighborhood News

Stockade website: [www.historicstockade.com](http://www.historicstockade.com).

## April 7th Stockade Association Board Meeting Summary

- Board learned that Capital Printing, printer of the Spy, has closed and a new printer relationship is being pursued for new year beginning September, 2009.
- Treasurer report received. Treasurer will create a template letter from the Association to acknowledge any tax-deductible contribution. Finance Committee will meet.
- Board approved one revision to By-laws Article IV, Section G which will be reflected in By-laws document to be voted on at May Annual meeting.
- Membership chair reported final member total of 168 will be listed in May Spy.
- Nominating Committee is preparing a slate to include new directors and officers as needed for vote at May 14th meeting of the Association.

- Infrastructure Committee shared progress on discussions with city and RPI about proposal for burying wires and adding period energy saving lighting to the streetscape in the Stockade.
- Diane DeMeo announced ads and signage for Sidewalk Sale will be as in the past. Association will have a presence and accept donations from neighbors who have items to sell. This will include plant sale by Garden Group.
- Preservation chair reported on at-risk properties, Stockade Gateway project and Historic Tax.
- Board discussed parking issues that need to be addressed before the fall. Board also discussed tax assessment concerns raised by neighbors and while no clear action by the board is evident at this time discussion will continue.

## 19th Annual

# *Stockade Neighborhood Sidewalk Sale* **Sat., June 6 (rain date - June 7) 9:00AM - 4:00PM**

Please join us in this opportunity to convert those unwanted items into cash, meet your neighbors and show off our beautiful neighborhood! Your participation fee pays for your permit and helps to defray the costs of advertising. Permits will be distributed the morning of the sale and must be displayed at your table.

### **“One man’s junk is another man’s treasure!”**

Don't have enough "treasures" to set up a table for the sidewalk sale or maybe even have some extras? We'll take them! The Stockade Association will have a table where you can donate your "treasures" and help support your neighborhood Association that works for you. Call Diane DeMeo, Sidewalk Sale Chair at 372-0642. Also, the Garden Group is looking for perennials for a plant sale. So think of dividing and sharing some of your garden bounty as you begin your spring garden clean-up. Labeled plants in pots accepted. Check the Community Bulletin Board for more details. Questions, call Carol 393-4725 ([cdelam6533@aol.com](mailto:cdelam6533@aol.com))

-----  
\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will participate in the 19th Annual Stockade Sidewalk Sale!  
Enclosed is my \$10 fee made payable to the Stockade Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form (with check for \$10) to:  
Diane DeMeo, 232 Union Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305 372-0642

**DUE DATE: Monday, June 1, 2009**

## KaBUL NIGHT

- Gerald Plante

Kabul Night at 402 Union Street is one of those places that catches your eye. Kabul is at the corner of Union and Broadway in the former site of the Night Sky Cafe. As you walk in the front doors there is a fine dining atmosphere of linen covered chairs and tables with soft sounding music wafting in the background allowing for a formal, comfortable atmosphere that immediately takes over. My server greeted me on the spot and offered me a table. I sat closest to the kitchen so I could take in the full effect of Afghani cooking. Afghani cooking allows for more natural ingredients and medium spices and goes back centuries. *Ashak* is the dish I ordered. It is listed under the Afghan Pasta section of a well-rounded menu that includes meals, appetizers, kabobs and desserts. There is even a Kids menu. *Ashak* is a wonderful mix of

boiled dumplings filled with scallions and spinach, topped with garlic and yogurt sauce. Unbelievably delicious. I recommend a loaf of bread to go with this all consuming mix of great tasting ingredients. The mix of scallions and spinach along with the dumplings sets off an easy to digest dish. Just a note of caution: there is no alcohol served at Kabul but, like Afghani cooking, living cautiously is the best revenge. Kabul is a must stop along the way of an interesting mix of businesses in the lower Union Street Business corridor. I am already wondering what I am going to order for my next visit. Afghani cooking does that: it stays with you enticing the senses to experience it all over again! Prices are market value. Buffet is Monday through Friday, 11:30am to 1:30pm. Hours are Monday through Friday, 11am to 9pm, Saturday, 12pm to 9pm.

## - TIDINGS -

- from Lydia Eis

**Brett and Stacey Lauren-Kennedy** moved from Riverside Condos to 128 Front St. They are two energetic people who are beginning the process of transforming their two family house back into its original one family state. Both grew up in Schenectady and do like the Stockade. Brett studied music at SCCC. He enjoys playing guitar in his spare time. Stacey studied the arts at SUNY Albany. She was a Times Union photographer until a few years ago. Now she enjoys gardening, artwork, and working with Brett in their Real Estate Holding Company here in the Stockade. Brett also does work for Prudential. We welcome them to our little community, wish them good luck and happiness.

**Karen Canton and Keith Dayer** are the owners of 24 Front Street. Schenectady born Keith grew up in Clifton Park, graduated from Shenendehowa and graduated from Clarkson with an ME degree. He has in the past done historical restorations and also worked in broadcasting (WRGB) and also done Alternate Energy Research. On the other hand, Karen was born and raised in Flemington, New Jersey (northwest NJ). She graduated from the University of Kansas with a BSW and also has a Masters in Social Work from Rutgers University. She is a practicing social worker at present. She has a 21 year old son, Kyle, and a 23 year old daughter, Allison. Keith has a 16 year old daughter, Katie. Karen and Keith are both interested in historic restoration. Good luck and welcome.

**Mark Roberts** moved into his spacious home (15 Washington Avenue) in October. He was born and raised in Glens Falls, NY. At the age of 20, he enlisted in the army where he was educated over time! He is retired now as a commissioned officer, and works for DELL as a consultant engineer. Mark has a daughter, Gwen, age 16, and a son, Owen, who is a junior at Potsdam. All three like the Stockade and are very interested in historical restoration. Mark is working hard on many house projects. Welcome and much good luck.

## Thank you, Josh and Good Luck!

Josh Mlodzianowski of 109 Union Street has spent countless hours over the last few years through rain, sleet and snow delivering *Spys* to our Stockade doorsteps. We bid him a fond farewell as he heads off to study at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. Thank you, Josh, and good luck from all of your neighbors.

## Birds of the Stockade



The American Robin's whistled caroling and the Cardinal's sweet, slurred phrases are welcome relief. Birdsong is an acoustic flower that blooms early in the spring and lasts well into summer. It is also closely tied to breeding

behavior and territory. With species such as Baltimore Orioles, Northern Cardinals, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, she also sings. While living in New Hampshire, I've heard Purple Finches singing while in flight. And, as always, keep your ears open for Birdsongs.

-James L. Taft  
AKA Captain Eagle Eyes



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## Doing Some Outside Repairs and Painting?

You May Need to fill out an application

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 (CHOURIGAN@GMAIL.COM) or 382-5147, Department of Development, Room 14, 105 Jay Street, City Hall, Schenectady, 12305. Also, <http://www.cityof-schenectady.com>. Fees for Historic Commission applications are \$10 for residential applications and \$20 for commercial applications. Here is the schedule for application deadlines and review meeting dates for 2009. Review meetings are in Room 209, City Hall, 7pm.

Application deadline	Review meeting	Room
May 4	May 18	209
May 26	June 8	11C
June 8	June 22	110
June 29	July 13	110
July 27	August 10	110
September 8	September 21	209
October 5	October 19	209
November 2	November 16	209
December 7	December 21	209

## You Can Have a Plaque for Your Historic Home

Have you seen one of the new house plaques at 15 Washington Avenue? It is simply beautiful with lots of interesting information. You may be eligible for one on your historic home and get financial help for it, too. Dale Miller has been leading this effort for a number of years and the Stockade Association has set aside an amount of money to help homeowners purchase them on a first come, first serve basis.

Dale has applications that he can give you, or you can stop in at the Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue (entrance in the back) and pick one up.

Any questions, call Dale at 381-6189.

## \$\$\$ Help with Your Sidewalks & Painting

The Stockade Association has a Sidewalk & Painting Incentive Program for Stockade residents. Monies are available on a first come first serve basis to help you with your exterior home improvements. Connie Colangelo has applications; call for more information at 374-7355.

Sidewalk Incentive: \$300 maximum per property owner is available, limited to 20% of incurred cost with a per square yard incentive cap of \$30. Slate, brick, or approximately tinted concrete only. No blacktop. Approval by Historic Commission is required. See article to the left.

Painting Incentive: \$150 maximum per property owner is available to help defray costs for painting building exteriors readily visible from the public way, using colors approved by the Historic District Commission. See article to the left.

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# Neighborhood Watch News

- Beverly Elander



Neighborhood Watch Minutes  
March 24, 2009

Attendance: 15 Stockade residents/supporters met at Success Recording Studios, Green Street in the Stockade. City-wide Neighborhood Watch leader Fred Lee was present, as well as Stockade President Lyn Gordon.

The following items were discussed:

1. Fred Lee reported that for a variety of reasons, members will be required to complete new applications at the next meeting. Bev will bring the forms. Another training session at Police headquarters will take place in April. Window Watcher training will take place at regular NW meetings. National Night Out (August 4) planning will take place at City Hall March 31. The possibility of including students in NW was proposed.
2. David Kennison reported that St George's will underwrite the cost of 2 radios for the Stockade, bring our total to 4 radios.
3. Joan Bessarab reported a positive incident with a police officer that had occurred to her recently.
4. Stockade President Lyn Gordon clarified the Neighborhood Watch's role in the identification of properties in need of attention. Beverly offered to put a notice on the Stockade Yahoo list requesting anyone interested in doing odd jobs in the neighborhood to contact her. A list will be prepared and the information disseminated to landlords who might need help.
5. Bev will also prepare signs to be left on windshields of cars belonging to people who are illegally parked.
6. The 4th Annual Stockade Neighborhood Picnic sponsored by the Stockade Neighborhood Watch will take place in Riverside

Park Tuesday July 28. Carol will check on the availability of the String Dusters. Other details to follow.

7. An increase in the number of car break-ins was noted in the Daily Gazette.
8. A resident reported a problem which needed immediate attention. One of the NW members left to contact Lt Harrigan about the concern.
9. An update on the Stockade crime/concern data base being designed by Susan Tyler was tabled until the next meeting.
10. DA Bob Carney (surveillance cameras in the Stockade) and BNI Director Ed August (neighborhood lighting) will be guest speakers at the General Stockade Association meeting in May.
11. Graffiti continues to be a concern. (According to the Gazette, an 18 year old female resident at S Church St was recently arrested for graffiti done downtown last May.)
12. Two litter patrols covered 4 streets on the way to the meeting.
13. Identifying Block Captains will be discussed at the next meeting.
14. No movement has been reported on the 2 Chamber buildings at Union and Erie.
15. A big thanks to Marcel and James for allowing us to meet at their recording studio. The next meeting will be Tuesday April 28, 7-8pm at Arthur's Market.

Future meetings:	May 26	September 22
	June 23	October 27
	July 28	November 24
	August 25	December 22

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## Schenectady Heritage Foundation News



Schenectady Heritage Foundation is pleased to report that both 7 and 8 Union Street have been purchased by new owners who intend to not only halt further deterioration of these historic buildings, but also to improve them. Both houses were bought at a foreclosure auction on January 29, 2009, with transfer of ownership taking place recently. The Foundation attended the auction and spoke to both successful bidders.

# 8, a multi-unit apartment building, was purchased by local resident Chris LaFlamme. The Foundation inspected the building before the auction and found it in good condition. Chris intends to gradually improve the building and apartments. His plans include making the building "smoke-free". The Foundation is helping him research the history of the building, formerly a single family mansion, and is providing information on available programs and/or funding.



#7 Union St. in the 1960's

Across the street, #7 was purchased by David Longo, also a local resident. Dave's son, Joe, is helping with the restoration. The Foundation inspected it before the January foreclosure auction and found multiple issues needing attention. A "needs assessment" report, including a plan to redress its division into apartments, is recommended. The Longos intend to improve the property, including painting the facade this season. The Foundation requested that the TV dish be removed from the facade. The new owners have also expressed interest in restoring the front balustrade that SHF rescued at two separate auctions. We have all the spindles, but the top rail must be fabricated. To see an identical restored balustrade, check out 21 Front Street, the brownstone at the foot of Church Street. The Foundation is continuing to accept donations for the restoration of #7's balustrade; please mail to the Foundation at P.O. Box 1173, Sch'dy, NY 12301. Donations are tax deductible. This is a meaningful way to show support for the new owner!



May is National Historic Preservation Month and time for Schenectady Heritage Foundation's annual Preservation Awards. The winners will be announced within a few weeks, along with information about when and where the Award ceremony will take place. We may have a new location this year, so be sure to check the Stockade Yahoo email list after May 10 for Award ceremony information.

Several people who have applied for a tax credit for their restoration work on historic properties have experienced confusion and/or delays with the "Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Exemption" law. The Foundation contacted Schenectady Councilwoman Peggy King, a Stockade neighbor, to help sort out the law. Peggy is generously working on the problem for us and

will hopefully have more information soon. If you need help accessing the tax exemption benefit, you can contact me (Gloria Kishton) at 377-1160.

Unfortunately, another bollard at the Stockade Gateway was knocked down sometime during the winter. These bollards are like ice bergs, with most of their bulk underground. Unless the accident is witnessed and insurance money forthcoming, the bollards are prohibitively expensive to replace. The Foundation is exploring a less expensive bollard design for replacements. Routine upkeep of the Gateway has been funded by the Foundation through its Jack Zegger Memorial Fund. The engraved granite pillars will be professionally cleaned this season. A big "Thank You" to DSIC (Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corp.) which, under its new Executive Director, Jim Salengo, has begun cleaning not only the Gateway area, but also the rest of Union Street, which is included in their downtown improvement district.

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## Garden By the Tracks

- John Rotundo



On any given summer day you are bound to find Chris Morris working hard on the flower garden that borders the train tracks on Front Street.

Once a jungle of weeds, the slightly pitched hill has Chris's determination to thank for transforming it into a beautiful, bi-level garden for all passersby to enjoy. She plants, weeds and waters the flowers that she selects each year from the Adopt-A-Public-Space program through the Schenectady County Horticultural Education Center at Central Park. She also mows the area surrounding the garden to give just the right setting to show off the colorful beauty of the flowers.

Along with the "track garden" project, Chris is responsible for the design and upkeep of the gardens and grounds surrounding the Agrawal Apartments at 305/307 Front Street where she is property manager.

Then to further her busy role as "Gertie the Gardener," she takes care of the landscaping and property management at her son's business, the Jason Morris Judo Center, on Rt. 50 in Glenville. (Chris is the proud mother of this 4 time Judo Olympian, U.S.A.'s 1992 silver medallist, and 2008 Olympic head coach who runs a national training site for both local and international judo players.)

As her energy and creativity is an inspiration to many, I asked what motivates her.

Her response: "I want a perfect world!"

## FOR DOROTHY

- Catherine de Salle



Dorothy Dietrich, of 4 North Street, died on April 1, 2009. Her contribution to this community over the last forty years has been immeasurable.

I could show you a place in the Stockade where an Iris might bloom in September, where Jimsonweed grows in abundance, and the loveliest trumpet vine shows off its red orange blossoms; but it was Dorothy Dietrich who showed me these things with wonder and barely suppressed excitement in her voice. She might caress the cottonwood fluff with delicate fingers or the ginkgo leaves or the snowdrops that bloom in St. George's. The streets of this neighborhood were her backyard, the rhythm of this place set her pace. From the Binnekill to College Street she'd walk her daily walk, her eyes scanning the ground for chives or crocus, until of course she met you and then after a hug she might talk of anything from fashion to politics while you strolled along Front Street or the river's edge. I think I'll never walk along the river path again without thinking this slender beautiful woman will come out of the shadows and walk towards me and hug me and say, "I'm so happy to see you."

Dorothy was a fine artist and had been an art teacher for many years. She was, at one time, the editor of the Spy and worked for WMHT when they had their offices in the school on Front Street. She was here when one followed a thin trail through Riverside Park, and the weeds grew so tall you couldn't see the river. All these things she told me over time, at Harlow's pool, or when I'd sit at a stool in her kitchen having a cold drink. I met her at a class in Botanical Illustration, at which she excelled. She loved gardening as much as she loved to draw or paint.

I'll miss her now, and when the seasons change, but I know I'll see her again each time I look deep inside the foxglove or when the green heron sails low to the water; in the softness of paint on paper, in the mornings that break over the Mohawk.

## An Extra Hand



hand.

You notice a bit more dust, a little more clutter, a project, or two you can't quite manage. The debris from each season seems to roll into the next. This is a dilemma facing many of today's elderly: they hope to remain in the place they call home, but sometimes struggle to maintain it. They are not nursing home-bound; they just need an extra

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# Schenectady Greenmarket Moves Outdoors in May - Heather Meaney



time. She is looking forward to the outdoor market which will take place around City Hall, beginning on Sunday, May 3.

"We've been going to the market ever since the first weekend that it opened and every Sunday that we're in town, we're there," she said. "We buy milk, eggs, apples, lettuce, bread, cheese, yogurt and vegetables when they're available, like carrots, peppers, broccoli, potatoes, garlic, and onions. I love my fresh tomatoes, my cinnamon rolls, and my fresh eggs. Once more produce returns, we will hopefully buy all of our vegetables at Schenectady Greenmarket and as much fruit as we can," she said.

The market opened in Robb Alley and the Education Center at Proctors in November. May 3 marks the first day for the summer outdoor market which takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will feature nearly 50 vendors. It will be held rain or shine.

"We're all so excited because our summer market will be bigger, have a lot more produce and many more products. Surrounding City Hall is the most beautiful outdoor location in the city," said Barbara Blanchard, Chair of the Board of Directors for Schenectady Greenmarket.

In addition to vendors of local foods and artisanal goods, the market features live music, cooking and gardening demonstrations from a community expert and children's activities, a community table and special County bicentennial events.

Zoe's husband Dale Miller said that the market has a welcoming

For Zoe Oxley of Gr en Street, shopping at the year-round Schenectady Greenmarket has been a welcome addition to her Sunday rou-

atmosphere with a true sense of community. "Sometimes either my wife or I will shop and the other will sit with Owen, our three-year old son to just listen to the music. He loves it. It's a great place to see people," Dale said. "The quality of the food is very high and we like the fact that we are meeting the people producing our food," he said.

Front Street resident Peggy King, President of the Schenectady City Council, noted that the market has given downtown Schenectady a large economic boost and brought many people to the city.

"I think the market has been a wonderful draw to get people downtown in Schenectady. On Sunday mornings you can't find a place to park. It's really exciting. In addition to going to the market, people are venturing out and shopping on Jay Street, possibly going to the movies, making more of a day of it," she said.

## May 3 Schedule of Events

**Live Music:** Running the River, four-piece acoustic band with a unique blend of classic country, rock, folk, Irish, blues and fiddle tunes.

**Your Local Expert:** Executive Chef Rob Gavel helps kick off the summer market. Come down and start your summer off with some great recipes and ideas from another one of our fabulous local chefs!

**Children's Activities:** Union College Ozone House will be at the market with face painting activities.

**Schenectady County Bicentennial Events at the Market:** John Ackner, Blacksmith, will demonstrate blacksmithing, and have a display of historic blacksmithing products from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Wendy Voelker, Special Events Coordinator for Schenectady County, will showcase the County's Bicentennial Celebration Events.

**Special note:** Also on Sunday, May 3, Capital District Local First is hosting a Buy Local Bash at Proctors.

Visit [www.schenectadyygreenmarket.org](http://www.schenectadyygreenmarket.org) for an updated calendar, parking and vendor information.



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10:00 a.m. Brunch & Fellowship

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# Day Tripper:

## Longfellow National Historic Site, Cambridge, MA

- Gerald Plante

Photos by Gerald Plante



Longfellow Home 1759

While visiting family in the Boston area last summer I came upon the Longfellow National Historic Site, home to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in a quiet, unassuming neighborhood in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a stone's throw away from the Charles River. What gave it a second look was the fact that it resembles the Schenectady County Historical Society's home on Washington Avenue in the Stockade. Longfellow's home is a Georgian Mansion ca. 1759 and the Historical Society is also Georgian but, with aspects of Federal and Greek Revival. What's most striking is the front entrance of the county building at 32 Washington Avenue which is a more ornate entrance than the Longfellow House. If you look above the two entrances you can see immediately the more toned down front door of the Longfellow home. Also, its roof has two end windows while the Historical Society's has one, above its front entrance. The Historical Society's building was built in 1895 which is a lot younger than Longfellow's 1759 structure. Although the age difference, both structures are similar in design and purpose for both are now museums that house priceless artifacts, books, artwork and period furniture. So "famous" was this "outstanding example" of mid-Georgian architecture that it's been replicated a great deal throughout many parts of the country.

These two buildings don't only share a similar architectural standard but also history involving George Washington, general during the American Revolutionary War and eventually the first President of the United States. Along the tour of the Longfellow House, it's pointed out that General George Washington started the beginnings of the Revolutionary War in Cambridge at loyalist John Vassall's Home - eventually Longfellow's home - which was turned into Washington's headquarters during the famous Siege of Boston. I've heard that Washington Avenue in Schenectady is named after George Washington. He visited the area often through his travels during the birth of our Nation and was known to sleep at one of the homes on Washington Ave. There is an historic marker stating such, just as you enter the west side of Washington Ave. from State Street.

Though much glorious history was made at Longfellow's home where most of his famous writings and poems were produced, there was also much sadness when Longfellow's wife died from a fire started in the first floor family room. His daughter, Alice Longfellow, a founder of Radcliffe College, had a home built next door to her family's. Other than the main house there are historic gardens and out buildings to roam about. Many plantings are rare and old.

Summer is upon us and, once again, in the northeast, it is time to hit the road for another day trip. Happy travels.



Schenectady County Historical Society 1895

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*Thank you! Thank you, all!* Seven months into the Stockade Association's fiscal year, the Stockade Association membership remains strong and continues to flourish! Now, with five months left in the fiscal year, first time members, combined with those long standing, are making this a successful and joyous year. Here is the current membership as of April 12, 2009.

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 Elena Alvarez  
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 Robert Woods  
 Jean Zegger

If you are not a member of the Stockade Association and would like to join, feel free to phone any Board member for details. Their names and phone numbers are listed in this issue of the *Stockade Spy* on page 15.

## A Big Thank You

to all the wonderful folks who have contributed to  
**The Stockade Spy** this past year -  
 writing, photographing, advising, advertising, delivering, mailing  
 and all around positive support!!!!!!!!!!!!

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# Calendar In and Around the Stockade



## Sch'dy Civic Players

present  
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### "Rehearsal For Murder" May 8-10 & 13-17

Was it suicide or murder? And if murder, who did it? That's what playwright Alex Dennison is trying to find out a year later, when he reunites the cast from

the opening night of his play, "Chamber Music," which opened and closed the night his fiancée, Monica Welles, died. In this intriguing mystery, Alex Dennison gathers his "usual suspects" and traps them in an empty theater where they are supposedly reading through his latest play. All seats \$15. 8pm curtain, 2:30pm Sunday matinees. The Playhouse is at 12 S. Church St. Website - [www.civicplayers.org](http://www.civicplayers.org). Phone 382-2081.

## Vacation Bible School: July 27-31

Vacation Bible School is being held this summer at the First Presbyterian Church, 209 Union Street, Schenectady. Join us as we learn about ancient Rome in Bible-times culture, helping kids explore what life was like then. Experience new traditions, taste new foods, try new arts and craft projects, Bible lessons, music and more. Monday through Friday 9-12 noon and is for ages 4 years through current 6th graders. VBS is free and you can register or find out more by calling our church office at 374-4546, or register on Monday morning of VBS.  
- Linda Gower, Director of Children's Ministries

## Quadracentennial Bus Trip to

**New York City Sat. May 16 7:30am- 9:15pm**

Guided tour of "Amsterdam/New Amsterdam: The Worlds of Henry Hudson." Rare 16th & 17th century objects, images and documents from major Dutch and American collections in the Quadracentennial exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York, in collaboration with the New Netherland Institute, Albany and the National Maritime Museum Amsterdam/Nederlands Scheepvaartmuseum Amsterdam. Learn about Reformed Church's 1628 Dutch roots, view "History Panorama" and much more. At least 40 people are needed at \$45 each to cover cost of bus, tip and snacks. Museum admissions/guided tour \$25 adults, \$16 seniors (65+) Call Laura Linder ASAP for more info and reservations 518 281-4764 or 518 882-6866.

## Schenectady County Community College

78 Washington Ave. 381-1250 [www.sunysccc.edu](http://www.sunysccc.edu)

- **SCCC Chorus and Vocal Chamber Ensemble**  
Monday, May 4, 7:30pm Taylor Auditorium. Free.
- **SCCC Guitar Ensemble**  
Wednesday, May 6, 7:30pm Lally Mohawk Room. Free.
- **Capital Region Wind Ensemble** presents "Incantation and Dance" Sunday, June 7, 3pm, Taylor Auditorium. Tickets: \$8-general public; \$6 students. Please call 381-1231 for tickets.

## Save the Dates!

**Stockade Art Show - Saturday, Sept. 5**  
**Stockade Soiree - Sunday, Sept. 13**  
**Stockade Walkabout - Saturday, Sept. 26**

**2010 Secret Garden Tour - Friday & Saturday, June 11 & 12.** If you have a garden you'd like to open for this tour, be thinking about participating. Questions? Look for information on the Historic Stockade Website.

## Mabel's Art Exhibit

Stockade resident Mabel Leon currently has an exhibit in the OTB window, State Street in downtown Schenectady running through May 30. Items include photographs taken in Cuba, sculpture, and mixed media. Now that it is finally spring, why not stroll by and enjoy this exhibit by one of our neighborhood's fine artists.

## Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Ave. 374-0263

Mon.- Fri. 1-5 Sat. 10-2

Special Bicentennial Exhibit:

"The Most Beautiful Land" Schenectady's Rich History

## Spring Golf Ball Drop

**Friday, June 19, 6-8:30 pm.**

A fun event sponsored by Stockade neighbor, Family and Child Service of 246 Union St. Golf balls are dropped from a helicopter at the 9th hole at the Stadium Golf Club, 333 Jackson Ave., Schenectady. The 3 balls closest to the hole win prizes. You do not have to attend the event. Only 1000 golf ball tickets will be sold. \$10 donation for each numbered golf ball. Prizes include: two Southwest Airline tickets to anywhere Southwest flies, plus \$2000 in traveling cash. For tickets, a dinner invitation, sponsorship and more info, call 393-1369 or <http://www.familyandchildservice.com>

## Moon And River Cafe

115 South Ferry St. 382-1938 9am-11pm 7 days  
Cozy Neighborhood Place!

- Fri. 5/1 8pm 3/4 North - 4 piece folk band
- Tues. 5/5 8pm String Dusters - bluegrass
- Wed. 5/6 6pm Discussion - Create a Better World 8pm Reggae Party with DJ Smooth
- Thurs. 5/7 7pm Native American Culture
- Fri. 5/8 8pm Incredible Guitarists Eric & John
- Sat. 5/9 2pm Reception - Schenectady Art Society 8pm Aaron Civic - 14 year old rocker
- Tues. 5/12 8pm folksinger Catherine Norr
- Wed. 5/13 8pm jazz by Jazzmin
- Thurs. 5/26 8pm Schenectady jazz-rock legend, Dennis McCafferty

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**Important Numbers**

- **Emergency 911**
- **Non-emergencies 382-5263, 382-5264, 382-526**
- **Stockade Neighborhood Watch Officer - Lt. Thomas Harrigan call non-emergency # & request him**
- **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**
- **Animal Control Voicemail 382-5200 ext. 5655**

Please report any wrongdoings to the police immediately and request that your call be added to "The Daily Report."

**Waste Collection Dates**

**May**  
Thurs., 7, 14, 21 Fri., 29

**June**  
All Fridays, 5, 12, 19, 26

**July**  
All Mondays, 6, 13, 20, 27

**August**  
All Mondays, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

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.

**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:

Stockade Association Treasurer  
Suite 100  
32 Washington Avenue  
Schenectady, NY 12305

**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 frail neighbors clean their front yards**
- **Pick up dog poops (in plastic bags)**
- **Report wrongdoings to the police ASAP**

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*Stockade  
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