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❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ANNUAL ❄️ ❄️ TREE LIGHTING ❄️ December 6, 5:30pm ❄️



Photo by Gloria Kishiton

The Annual Tree Lighting will take place at 5:30pm on Sunday, December 6 at Lawrence, the traffic circle at Ferry and Front Streets. Father Matthew Stromberg, rector of St. George's Church, will bless the tree. All children in attendance will wave magic wands to light the tree, donated by the Saratoga Tree Nursery and sponsored this year by Schenectady Heritage Foundation. We'll sing carols and finish off the celebration with refreshments compliments of Arthur's and the Stockade Association. Since we cannot gather indoors this year, refreshments will be enjoyed outside of Arthur's where we will inaugurate the pass-through window. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served. Save the date!

FESTIVAL OF TREES



The Stockade will once again participate in the annual Festival of Trees sponsored by the YWCA, 44 Washington Avenue and Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue. The event is open to the public every day from December 5 through December 29, 10am to 5pm. Admission is \$6. Children under 12 are free. Tickets will be sold for a specific date and time. All are required to wear masks. Proceeds support the work of the YWCA and the Historical Society.

Many organizations and companies around the Capital Region participate in this event. Tree decorations range from the beautiful to the funny to the whimsical. The Stockade tree always features images and items associated with our neighborhood. Contact the Historical Society for further information at (518) 374-0263.



Happy Hanukkah!



HAPPY KWANZAA!

SAVE THE DATES

Stockade Tree Lighting - Sunday, December 6, 5:30pm at Lawrence Circle, Ferry & Front Streets
Festival of Trees - Dec. 5 - Dec. 29, 10am – 5pm, Schenectady County Historical Society & YWCA
Stockade Association General Meeting via Zoom. January 21, 7pm. Details in January Spy. Members may contact Suzy Unger at suzanne.unger@gmail.com if they wish to observe a board meeting.

January Spy Deadline – December 15. Please email editor, sylviebriber@gmail.com

President's Column - Suzy Unger



Got stress? A global pandemic, rising unemployment, and a contentious presidential election would be enough. Yet in our own neighborhood, we have so much to contend with: starting with not one, but several, major construction projects that disrupt our ability to park our cars or even drive down the street. The noise, vibrations and disruptions have added to the everyday stressors of living in a closely knit community where parking is at a premium at the best of times, where we share driveways and alleyways and fences. These global, national and finally, local disruptions can be a source of stress. They have the potential for conflict.

Experts agree it is going to be a tough winter (with regard to COVID). Furthermore, a new U.S. president will be inaugurated, and locally, our neighborhood will face the usual challenges that snowfall inevitably brings. If we are going to keep our neighborhood a safe and pleasant place to live, we must treat one another with respect. What can each of us do to get through these challenging times? Think before speaking. Try to understand your neighbor's point of view. Listen. If none of that works, bite your tongue and count to ten. Many of us live here because we love the sense of community we find in the Stockade. That sense of community needs to be nurtured and renewed by each and every one of us.

Eventually the pandemic will be over. The new pump station will be finished (summer of 2021?). The streets will be paved and the gas hook ups completed. It will get better, a good thing to remember. In the meantime, we have some of our usual holiday events to look forward to. The Festival of Trees will be open most of December at the YWCA and the Historical Society. The tree at Lawrence will be lit with the usual pomp and ceremony on December 6. As we enter the holiday season, let's keep the message of Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All in our hearts.

✂ CUT HERE -----

STOCKADE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM: October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

To pay by credit card or electronically, send an email to StockadeassocQB@gmail.com and you will be sent a link that will allow you to pay online.

Regular Membership: Upon the payment of dues, *voting* membership is available to any individual owning property, renting, or owning a business entity within the Stockade Historic District

Affiliate Membership: Upon the payment of dues, any individual or organization not eligible for regular membership is eligible to become a *non-voting affiliate* member designated as a "Friend of The Stockade."

Dues: Individual - \$20; Household - \$25; Business owner - \$25; Affiliate - \$15.

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The *Stockade Spy* is distributed free to the neighborhood monthly and mailed to non-resident members and "Friends." Please make checks payable to: The Stockade Association
 Mail to: Stockade Association Treasurer, 32 Washington Ave., Suite 100, Schenectady, NY 12305

UPDATE FROM CITY HALL - Carol DeLaMarter N. Ferry St Pump Station Construction Progress



Drone photography by Chris White

November has been a busy construction time with the pouring of the concrete floor and foundation walls, with multiple wall/floor pours occurring in a phased manner. Ironworkers have been placing rebar and building forms for lower walls to the facility. These below grade walls will be water-proofed and tested. The large concrete rings have been in place all summer and support the excavation system. They will be left in place and buried below ground. Backfilling of this excavation zone should occur through December into January 2021. Park visitors will begin to see the second floor and roof emerge from the below grade site as exterior walls continue to be poured. Curious residents will finally begin to see the scale of the new Pump Station. Interior building work can begin during the winter as the second floor above ground work begins.

The City has applied for a feasibility grant from the Preservation League of NYS which will be used to assess reuse options for the historic 1913 Pumping Station. The Stockade Association continues to share a bi-weekly construction timetable of construction activity that may impact residents, especially those who park on contiguous streets.

STOCKADE SNOW - AVOID A TICKET AND A TOW!

In the Stockade, parking and driving can be a challenge! Plan ahead so you are not surprised with a ticket or a tow!

When it snows, the City will be plowing day and night, so get your car off the street until streets are plowed. If you plan to be away for an extended period of time, move your car or make arrangements with someone to move it in case of a heavy snowfall while you are gone.

Parking restrictions at First Reformed Church:

During the recent construction in Riverside Park, First Reformed Church has supported parking in their church lot because of limited parking on Front and Church Sts. The number of neighbors parking in the lot has increased as people remain at home. The Church has alerted us that they will now limit overnight parking in their lot. Cars remaining in the church lot overnight are being notified and may be towed.

During snowstorms, please be advised, temporary parking is allowed once the church parking lot has been plowed so the city can clear the streets. Please note: cars remaining in the lot will be towed at owner's expense to accommodate plowing of each lot during the night.

St. George's Church lot on Green St. and First Presbyterian lot on Union St. allow temporary short term parking. After snowfalls that require plowing, neighbors may park only after church lots are cleared. Be advised that cars will be towed on Sunday mornings and when space is needed for church events.

Snow Emergencies - Listen to the radio or TV to see if there is a Snow Emergency called. Watch for signs posted on the streets to be informed as to what to do.

Union Street neighbors - Union Street is our only priority street in the Stockade. If you live on Union St. you must move your car with the accumulation of 3 inches or more of snowfall.

Cars may return to Union St. only after the entire length of the street has been cleared of snow back to the curb.

If you have any questions during a snowfall or snow emergency, you can call the City of Schenectady Snow Emergency Hotline at 518-382-5279 or the Police Department at 518-382-5263.

For more detailed information, go to: www.cityofschenectady.com/225/Parking-Restrictions-Snow-Emergency

Stockade Safety
LIGHT UP THE STOCKADE!
Keep your front and back porch lights on for your safety and for nighttime walkers.



Use inexpensive, energy-saving Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs or LEDs and keep them on 24/7 in your front entrance AND backyards. If you come home after dark the lights will already be on for your safety and for nighttime walkers. Our sidewalks are often heaved up due to tree roots and easy to stumble on in the dark!

For safety, please keep sidewalks shoveled after a snowfall. It's a City Ordinance!

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Holy Eucharist Sundays at 10am

We are worshipping in person with social distancing. Please wear a mask and sit in designated pews which are spread apart. Communion is in one kind and received standing at the alter gate one family at a time.

Sunday Mass is live streamed on our Facebook page as well:
<https://m.facebook.com/pages/category/Episcopal-Church/Saint-Georges-Episcopal-Church-116891431698806/>

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Wednesday Night: Prayer Services In-person at 7:00pm.

If you are interested in joining us, email Pastor Matt Mierski
(matthewmierski@gmail.com). It would be our delight!

Search for "First Presbyterian Church Schenectady" on YouTube.
Phone: (518) 374-4546 / Email: fpcofficeschdy@gmail.com



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RIVERSIDE PARK CLEAN UP A SUCCESS!

*Friello Landscaping
volunteers brought
company equipment
to chainsaw fallen
branches in the
park. Thank You!*

Photo by Chris Marney

About 15 neighbors came out on a lovely, sunny October afternoon to rake leaves, pull weeds and otherwise spruce up Riverside Park. They filled 20 leaf bags and left the park looking much better than how they found it. The next week the city not only picked up the bags, they mowed the river bank, a big improvement. Thanks to all who helped! Missed this event? Don't worry, there will be another next Spring!

Board Summary for November 2, 2020

Note: Any Association member is welcome to attend board meetings which are held on the first Monday of the month. Contact Suzy Unger if you are interested, at suzanne.unger@gmail.com. The next meeting will be on Jan 4, 2021.

Suzanne Unger, Colleen Macaulay, Susan Du Four, Bob Stern, Keith Dayer, Jasmine Roberts, Chris Marney attended. Donna Doll was not present.

Treasurer Susan DuFour gave the treasurer's report for October and November 2020. Ms. DuFour reported that the fiscal year 2019-2020 is now closed. Ms. DuFour made the following motion: "To approve the use of QuickBooks to electronically pay for some general expenses (not Spy expenses) as the current general check stock is projected to last 2.5 Years. By using QuickBooks for some payments (where possible) the check stock will last an estimated 4-5 years." Motion passed by acclamation.

Suzy Unger attended a recent SUN meeting to suggest starting an initiative to calm traffic in the city. A group of SUN representatives will be meeting November 9. Clean-up day in the park was a big success. Ms. Unger thanked all the volunteers who helped, especially Friello Landscaping.

Ms. Macaulay reported that the Stockade Association will participate in the Festival of Trees sponsored by the Schenectady Historical Society and the YWCA, Dec. 5- Dec. 29, 2020. The annual tree lighting will be on Dec. 6, 2020.

Keith Dayer discussed possible sites for the second bench. Jasmine Roberts presented a variety of membership incentives. Carol DeLaMarter sent a written report that the pump station is on track to be finished by the summer of 2021. Mr. Dayer took pictures of the inside of the old pump station to be used in the city's Technical Assistance Grant application.

Ms. Tillilie will be gathering information on planting a perennial garden at the end of Washington Avenue in the park. Chris Marney is working on the new website and Ms. Unger and Mr. Marney are working on improving code enforcement in the Stockade.

Ms. Tillilie reported on a project she is undertaking with Mary Zawacki to identify stray cats in the neighborhood and begin catching them for a neuter and release program.

New Project to Protect and Care for Stockade Cats

With winter on the way, Danielle Tillile and Mary Zawacki wanted to begin a project to understand and help the situation of stray cats in the Stockade. Essentially, it's a cat census, but, they need your help!



Their goal is to ensure that every stray and feral cat roaming the Stockade is spayed and neutered, to avoid future litters of homeless kittens. They'd also like to rehome friendly stray cats who would benefit from a life off the street.

Here's where the Stockade community can help, by partaking in their census:

1. Do you currently have an indoor/outdoor cat who roams the Stockade? If so, let them know their name, description, and address, so they can mark them in their Cat Census and leave them be.
2. Do you notice regular stray cats in your yard or on your street? Let them know. They would like to TNR - trap, neuter, release, ensuring no more homeless kittens are born.
3. Do you know of a neighbor's cat, who we should leave alone? Again, let them know the name and description of the cat, so they can be sure to avoid trapping him/her.

Beyond that, they welcome your feedback on this project. Both of them are avid cat rescuers, with experience in fostering, trapping, and finding good adoptive homes for our feline friends. For more information, please check out this resource: <https://www.aspc.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender/closer-look-community-cats>.

You can contact Mary at: zawacki.mm@gmail.com or Danielle at: dtilillie@gmail.com.

New Google Group for Stockade Neighbors

Like the old Stockade fence itself (or one of its many, mysterious incarnations) Yahoo Groups will soon be no more. That means our useful neighborhood Stockade listserv is on its way out. Sometimes delightful, sometimes contentious, but always entertaining, the listserv has been a key way for residents to communicate with each other about everything from gardening to how to avoid getting towed.

But just because Yahoo Groups is going away, doesn't mean our neighborhood listserv has to! We've set up a new Google group for communication among Stockadians. You can join the group by visiting <https://groups.google.com/g/historic-stockade> and clicking "ask to join," or by emailing me directly at: zawacki.mm@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone who maintained the Yahoo Group all these years past. You've done the denizens of our small neighborhood quite a service. I can only hope that Google's successor group is as lively and useful as the old one.

See you online! - *Mary Zawacki, N. Ferry St.*

Birds of the Stockade - Jamie Taft (AKA Captain Eagle Eyes)

The Annual Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, is something that I've been doing for the past few years. It's free and in its 121st year. The Circle is 15 miles in diameter and the period runs from December 14 to January 5. We start out on December 19 in Vale Cemetery at 7am and count birds as individuals and also by species. The following is really helpful - www.audubon.org/join-christmas-bird-count.

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Church services may change due to COVID. Please check church websites or call ahead for the latest news.

First Presbyterian Church Christmas Services

Candlelight Christmas Eve "in person" service at 7pm in addition to live streaming.

The YouTube channel for access to live streaming: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstPresbyterianChurchSchenectady>
Sermons may also be accessed after the fact through their website: <http://www.1stpreshurchschdy.org/index.php/resources/sermons>

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Candlelight Tours a Success!



The Candlelight Tours co-sponsored annually by the Schenectady County Historical Society and Schenectady Heritage Foundation were better than ever this year! With people looking for safe outdoor activities due to the pandemic, every tour sold out early. Groups were much smaller and kept socially distanced. Many thanks are due to the staff of the Historical Society and Schenectady Heritage Founda-

tion's very excellent tour guides who bring the Stockade's spooky tales to life! Also thanks to St. George's Church for opening their doors to tours, and to neighbors who came out to tell their ghostly stories to attendees. Proceeds are used to preserve Schenectady's history and to fund the Foundation's incentive grants for brownstone repairs and front door restorations. See you next October! - *Gloria Kishton*

Have a Safe and Festive Christmas Eve

First Reformed Church has in-person and virtual Christmas Eve worship for you. This year's service will include choral music beginning at 8:45pm with worship beginning at 9pm. The service will conclude with Carol singing outside in Church courtyard. Those interested in in-person or virtual worship should check First Reformed Church website for details: 1stReFormed.com.

Christmas at St. George's Church

The Advent (Christmas) Season begins November 29. We invite all of our Stockade neighbors to celebrate the season with us, or view our live stream at St. George's Episcopal Church on Facebook or youtube.

12/6 - Saint Nicholas Day and Stockade Christmas Tree Lighting (St. Nicholas Day) @ 5:30pm at the Indian.

Father Matthew Stromberg will bless the tree, followed by Christmas carols and refreshments from the Arthur's (yes, that Arthur's) pass-through window.

12/13 - Saint Lucy's Day Mass @ 10:00am

St. Lucy is the patron saint of the blind; her day is often celebrated as the Festival of Lights.

12/24 - Christmas Eve Mass @ 10:00pm (preceded by a concert of carols at 9:30pm)

12/25 - Christmas Day Mass @ 11:00am

Community Lunch Every Wednesday at First Reformed Church

Join friends and neighbors for a delicious community lunch - take out! Stop by 8 North Church Street any Wednesday between 12:00 and 1:00 to say a masked, socially distanced hello and grab your lunch to go. Bring a friend. See you Wednesday!



Great Holiday Gift Idea!

Give a yearly subscription to The Stockade Spy as a holiday present! This is a great gift for anyone who grew up or lived here or just loves the Stockade! Just list the name and address of the recipient of your gift and your own name along with a check for \$12 made out to the Stockade Association and mail to the Stockade Association Treasurer, 32 Washington Ave., Suite 100, Schenectady, NY 12305.

Stockade Snowbirds

For Stockade Association members who spend the winter months in warmer areas, you can have the Stockade Spy sent to your temporary address. To do this send an email to RobertL990@aol.com. Include the months that you will be away and the address of your temporary quarters. This offer only applies to residents who are members of the Stockade Association.



Photo by Gloria Kishton

Albany Pro Musica

Lawrence Circle and the Riverside Park overlook were among the beautiful and iconic Capital District locations selected by Albany Pro Musica to film a pre-recorded program of Renaissance music, celebrating their 40th anniversary season.

The 57-minute virtual concert that showcases the artistry of Albany Pro Musica as well as

the beauty of the Stockade Historic District and the larger Capital Region can be seen at: <https://www.wmht.org/blogs/classical/albany-pro-musicas-a-capital-region-renaissance/>

COVID News

As we are all aware, COVID cases are increasing throughout most of the country, including New York State and Schenectady County. We are advised to continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing. People are also discouraged from gathering in large numbers even so far as getting together for the holidays. This is tough, especially after so many months of coping with this pandemic.

There is a ray of hope with the announcement of effective vaccines which might be available within a few months. In the meantime, testing is one way of keeping the virus from spreading. Schenectady County is offering free tests on Mondays 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. through December 28 at the Boys and Girls Club at 104 Education Drive. Tests are also offered on Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SUNY Schenectady, west parking lot. **Appointments are strongly encouraged and the schedule is subject to change.** Call 518-419-0370 for an appointment.

Tests may also be obtained at CVS but they are only available to those who have symptoms or been exposed to COVID. Visit the CVS website for more information. For information on other testing locations contact the New York State COVID hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or visit: forward.ny.gov/covid-19-testing.

Stay safe, everyone!



Stockade Furry Friends

Toby, a beloved and happy 10 year old, long-haired dachshund, was rescued by Stockade neighbors, Rob Surico and Karen Pandell just before his first birthday.

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

Hello from the Community Archaeology Program at SUNY Schenectady. Here's a short preview of our Spring 2021 courses, starting:

Monday, February 1- **Peopling the Past** with *Jessica Nelson*

Tuesday, Jan. 26 - **Historical Archaeology** with *Diana Carter*

Wednesday, January 27 - **Researching and Interpreting Documents** with *Louise Basa*

Monday, March 22 - **Discovering Schenectady's GE Realty Plot** with *City Historian, Chris Leonard*

All courses online until further notice. Stay tuned for course details in the next issue of the Spy.

Planning on Changes to a Historic District Property?

Changes to the exterior of property viewable from a public right-of-way (including parks & waterways) require prior approval from the Historic District Commission (HDC). Some changes may only require staff approval. Call City Hall to determine the appropriate level of review for your project. Other permits may be required. Applications online at: <https://www.cityofscheneectady.com/203/Historic-District-Commission>. Questions? Call Matt Smith at (518) 382-5147, or email: msmith@scheneectadyny.gov. Due to COVID19, meetings are held remotely.

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The Stockade Spy

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Didn't Get a Spy? You can pick up a copy in the box on the fence around Lawrence the Indian, or at Slick's Tavern. Current and back issues of The Spy can be found on the Stockade Association Website: www.historicstockade.com. Click on "Spy."

WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

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 www.downtownschenectady.org

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 Animal control voicemail (518) 382-5200, ext. 5655
 City website: www.cityofschenectady.com



SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING IS HERE!

Put all recyclable material into one container for collection. Questions? visit: www.cityofschenectady.com, click on "services," or call (518) 382-5144.

DECEMBER WASTE COLLECTION DATES

All Thursdays - December 3, 10, 17 & 24.

Pick up starts 6:15am. Put waste to curb the day before, after 2pm. Please remove emptied containers promptly.

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