



April 1997

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. 38 No. 8

The Gateway Project

Stockade Calendar

Empire Jazz Orchestra

World Premiere
Performance with
Nick Brignola on
saxophone
Tuesday April 1, 8 pm,
Taylor Community
Auditorium, SCCC, \$10,
\$8 students.
Call 381-1232

Chamber Concert

Potsdam Wind Octet
Thursday, April 10, 7:30
pm, Taylor Community
Auditorium, SCCC.
Free and open to the
public.

"Fun and Fellowship Night"

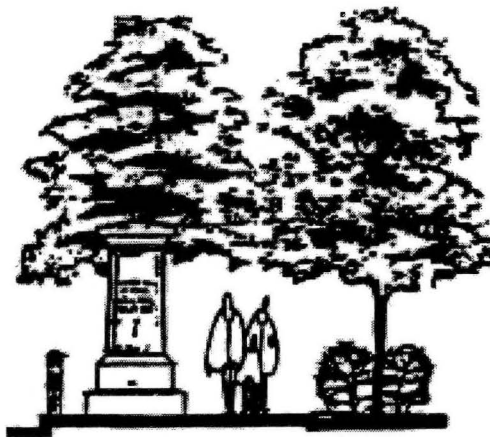
YMCA, Friday, April 11,
6-8 pm volleyball,
floor hockey, open swim,
childrens play area,
sponsored by the First
Reformed Church
Call 377-2201.

"Do You Remember Schenectady?"

Speaker, Bill Massoth
Saturday, April 12,
1:30 pm refreshments
2 pm program
Schenectady County
Historical Society

Deadline for May Spy
April 10 th

The objective of the Stockade Gateway Task Force is enhancing the Union Street entranceway to the Stockade District. The entranceway is important as it leads to the most historically significant area of the City which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The participants on the Task Force include representatives of the City of Schenectady, Schenectady Economic Development Corporation, The Stockade Association, Schenectady Heritage Foundation, Schenectady 2000, Cooperative Extension, the Van Dyck Restaurant, and



several area architects.

The Schenectady Heritage Foundation has agreed to serve in a fiduciary capacity for this project. The Foundation has fostered historic preservation in

Schenectady County since the 1970's by supporting a variety of projects through education, advocacy, and grants. It has concentrated on historic building conservation, area and neighborhood revitalization, and stabilization of the four unique historic districts in Schenectady.

The Gateway Project encompasses the design of new landscaping and the fundraising for the changes to the appearance of the streetscape of Union

(Continued on page 5)

Schenectady Seen From the Van Dyck: Part Two

The last two decades of the 19th century was a period of great change for Schenectady. In 1886 Thomas Edison founded the Edison Machine Works, and by 1892 it had become the General Electric Company. 1901 saw the merger of the Schenectady Locomotive Works, founded in 1851, with seven other locomotive plants to form the American Locomotive Company. At the turn of the century Schenectady was well on its way to being known internationally as "the city that lights the world."

Things were happening and changing at the houses at 235 and 237 Union St., too. In 1874 Elisha L. Freeman died. He had lived at 235 for nearly 30 years and had been quite successful with his building and art supplies store on Wall Street. With his passing, the house and property were passed on to his wife, Susan, who opened the rooms to the public for rent. This was a common thing for a widow to do in that

(Continued on page 4)

(Calendar continued from page 1)

Organ and Bell Recital

April 13, 3 pm, Sanctuary,
First Reformed Church

Organ, piano, and bell pieces. Reception following
with needlework display.

"Orpheus Descending" by Tennessee Williams

performed by SCCC Drama Club

directed by Assistant Prof. Sandy Boynton,

Wed. April 23 through Sat. April 26, 8 pm,

Matinee Fri., April 25 at 2 pm

Taylor Community Auditorium,

\$5, \$3 for students and seniors.

Patronal Festival

The Martyrdom of Saint George

Sunday, April 27, 10 am

St. George's Episcopal Church.

Followed by a processional through
Stockade Streets.

"Have Our Cities and Towns Become Ugly and Unattractive? What Can We Do?"

Speaker: James Howard Kunsler, author of *Home*

From Nowhere

and *The Geography of Nowhere*

Monday, April 28, noon

Sch'dy County Library, McChesney Room

SCCC Percussion Ensemble in Concert

Mon., April 28, 7:30 pm, Taylor Community
Auditorium, SCCC.

Free and open to the public.

SCCC Chamber Woodwinds in Concert

Wed., April 30, 7:30 pm, Mohawk Room, SCCC.

Free and open to the public.

Gateway Project Fundraiser

May 6, 6 - 8 pm Music and Hors D'oeuvres at the

Van Dyck Restaurant

\$25 a person, and \$50 for Patrons.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL



St. George's Episcopal Church on 30 North Ferry
Street, will be honoring their special Saint George on
Sunday, April 27 at 10 am. The ceremonies and pageantry
will be complete with clergy and parishers in tartans,
carrying flags, and bagpipers playing while going in
procession through the streets of the Stockade.

Stockade Neighborhood Sidewalk Sale is Coming!!!!

Clean out your attics, garages,
closets and especially those basements.

Treasures or trash - there's a buyer.
Just price it right (low) and mark
the price clearly. Be ready to negotiate!

Reserve the date now

Sat. May 17, 9-3 pm

Rain date

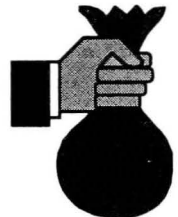
Sun. May 18, 11-4 pm

Details next month.

Chairpeople -

Helen Giulietti

Donna Hunt



The Stockade Spy

Editors:

Sylvia Briber 377-0469

23 Washington Avenue

Trevor Murphy 372-2058

Elayne Murphy

5A Washington Avenue

Sales:

Heather Boyne 372-5133

207 Union Street

Finance:

Janie Hayner 374-6216

6 Front Street

PRECISION
REPAIR & RESTORATION
OF YOUR CLASSIC AND ANTIQUE
Watches & Clocks
All work is guaranteed

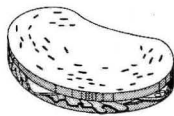
**TIME CENTER
JEWELERS**
SINCE 1918

428 State St., Three Doors From Proctors
Downtown Schenectady
(518) 374-0163



'Lite Fare'

"Just Jimmy's..."



Just Jimmy's at 431 Liberty Street could be just about Jimmy himself. You can't help but notice how everything from the walls to the tea cups are white - making for a bright, cheerful atmosphere.

This color scheme enlivens the diner scene, especially on a grey, damp, dreary day which is when I went on a recent Saturday morning.

Jimmy Miller is also proprietor of the Clinton Street Pub. So, it is no wonder his diner is close to his pub. After a night of partying one needs to replenish oneself with Jimmy's cheese omelet. That's exactly what I did to soften the edge of a very long night of partying at the pub.

Not only had "Jimmy's" given me a feeling of "sweetness and light" but, his cheese omelet was the potion my doldrums - weatherwise and otherwise - needed to start the day.

Lunch is served too. However, with breakfast being my favorite meal, I heartily recommend beginning any day at Jimmy's.

The service is like the food, just down-home good. No sooner had I given the very efficient waitress my order, it was sitting in front of me waiting to be devoured with abandon.

Also, the waitress loves pouring fresh coffee non-stop, which is, another plus to get your engine going.

Remember, it doesn't take a GE turbo to get one's day started, all it takes is a visit to Jimmy's. So, be there or be . You know the rest. Now, just do it.

Just Jimmy's is open Monday to Friday 6 am to 4 pm, and on Saturday and Sunday from 7 am to 2 pm.

Gerald Plante

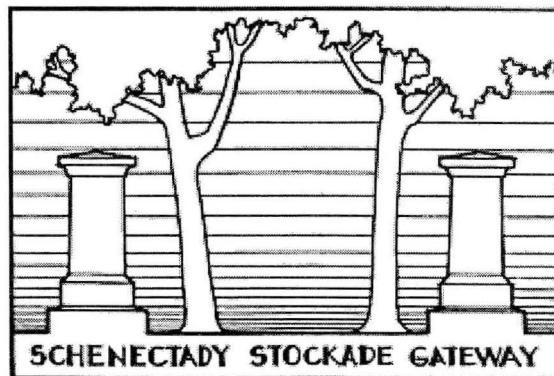
Gateway Project Fund Raiser

Come together and celebrate the Stockade in Spring: our wonderful community and its renewal with the re-opening of the Van Dyck Restaurant, coupled with the energies for the new Stockade Gateway Project.

A fund raiser for the Stockade Gateway

Project

(see front page article) will be held at the Van Dyck Restaurant,



Tuesday, May 6, 6 to 8 pm with music and hors d'oeuvres, courtesy of the Van Dyck, and a cash bar. Donations are \$25 per person (\$50 per person patron donation which includes listing in the program); tax deductible.

Sponsors of this exciting event are The Stockade Association, The Schenectady Heritage Foundation, and The Schenectady Heritage Area (formerly known as the Urban Cultural Park). Very special thanks go to the Van Dyck Restaurant for its help and support.

Susanna Sherwood and Barbara Sauer are doing a wonderful job of co-chairing this event. They will be sending out invitations on April 1. For more information, call them before April 26.

ARTHUR'S
A Public Market
first in 1795
372-3304 • 372-4141
PETE POLACHEK, Owner

A Cleaner Way, Inc.
PROFESSIONAL MAID SERVICE
"We Clean Until It Shines"

Janie Hayner
Bernadette Wilson

Telephone
(518) 346-5903

(Van Dyck continued from page 1)

time as there were few options open for a single woman to earn a living. The building remained a boarding house until 1890.

Next door there was a death as well. In 1894 James Donaldson, dealer in coal and wood on Dock Street, passed away leaving to his wife \$500 per annum, "use rents and profits of residence, and the like use of furniture, pictures, articles of use or virtue," except what was in son George's room or apartments, for the duration of her natural life, "so long as she remains a widow." Just before his death he added clauses that would ensure the continuation of his business and that would provide his wife with twenty tons of coal a year. It seems, however, that his wishes were not completely obeyed as the business did not last and the house was sold by the trustee in 1901 to Louis M. King.

Back at 235, the boarding house had come to close and the house passed through the hands of Eliphalet Nott Schermerhorn, a prominent attorney and frequent dealer in real property, to Albert Shear in 1898. Shear, like Freeman before him, ran a business on Wall Street. An advertisement in the 1899 Sch'dy Directory lists the A. Shear & Co. as dealers in "stone from the rock for railroad ballast, macadam roads and concrete - rock purchasers, special railroad rates to all points." It also lists on the next page Shear & Haight at the same address, 122 Wall Street, as dealers in building brick, lime, cement, and mason's supplies. So it's probably fair to surmise that Albert Shear was a well to do man, owning his own business and partners in another and living all the while at the stately house at 235 Union.

With the great expansion of Schenectady's industries at the turn of the century came great numbers of people and an era of prosperity. The city was no longer a small town centered upon the canal and State Street. The Schenectady Railroad Com-

pany truly moved the city as trolley lines were laid down seemingly overnight, criss-crossing town and connecting the newer "suburbs" of Bellevue, Scotia, upper Union, and Albany streets and even Mount Pleasant. It was during these times that the canal fell out of use and into disgrace, and the Stockade area began a slide into decline. Many of the houses in this, the oldest part of town, were let go without repair and many were carved up into apartments and boarding

houses. This was the case with Albert Shear's house at 235 Union. With his death in 1915, the house was put up for public auction and was sold for \$5000 to the Schenectady Trust Co.

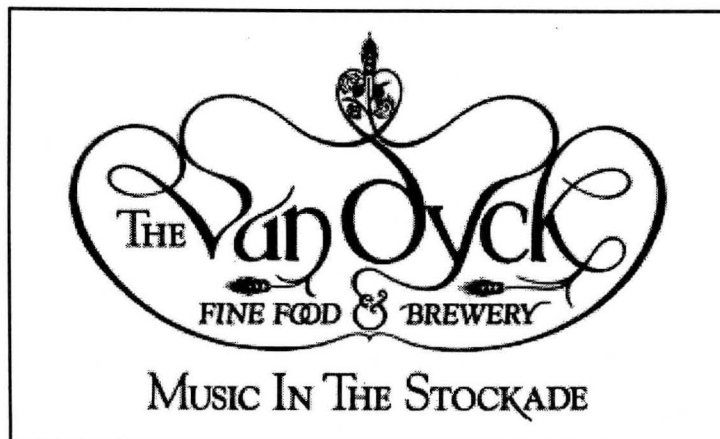
During the next decade the house passed through a few owners and ended up becoming Sterling Apartments, which it remained until 1958.

The house at 237 Union was to only have one more family live in it before it was turned into apartments. The Kings, Louis M., and his wife Rebecca Davidson, were to own the house from 1901 until 1946. Louis M. King, who once listed as an artist, made his profession in law, serving first as city clerk and later practicing for J. Franklin Kilmer in the Wedgewood Building on State Street. He was joined both at work and home by two relatives Marvin I King, and McDonald King, who became a prominent Schenectady attorney. Also living at home was Dorothy C. King, a student. Though Louis passed away in 1926, McDonald and Rebecca King were to stay on until 1946 when Rebecca sold 237 to Henrietta Ferris.

It was Ferris who began the first transformation of the building into a restaurant, as she opened the Hotel Andree, with a French restaurant in the lobby in 1946. A year later she sold it to Marvin Friedman who opened the Hotel Van Dyck on April 1st 1947. He was forced to name the business as a hotel due to Sch'dy zoning laws in the Stockade which allow for hotels in historic zones, but not restaurants. The Van Dyck restaurant was therefore originally the dining room of a boarding house.

The Restaurant grew in popularity through the

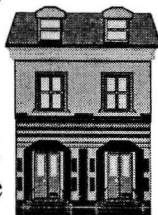
(Continued on Page 8)



Resource for Restoring Your Home

Are you looking for some shutters, doors, tubs, sinks, stairwell parts or other accessories for your historic home? Or would you like to give some away? Or do you need some advice on restoring your home?

Do you know about the Historic Albany Foundation and its Parts Warehouse? They have moved into new quarters with 12,000 square feet at 89 Lexington Avenue (previously at 399 South Pearl Street). Offices and warehouse together make for a convenient consolidation, with the telephone number the same, 465-2987. Parts Warehouse hours are Fridays from noon until 5 pm and Saturdays from 9 am until 5 pm.



Plans for 1997 include the establishment of a Preservation Library to supplement the technical advice that the Warehouse Manager and volunteer staff already provide. The Historic Albany Foundation has applied for a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts to purchase publications on building restoration techniques. In this way, the Parts Warehouse will grow as a resource for those seeking to restore their homes, in addition to being a source for reasonably priced salvage.

New Marquee for Schenectady Civic Players

The Playhouse is planning to have a new marquee. Next season will be their 70th year and the new marquee will be part of the celebration. More about this in later *Spy* issues, but the Playhouse would be happy to hear suggestions on a design from their Stockade neighbors.

The Wedgerway SINCE 1912
BARBER SHOP



Corner of STATE ST. & ERIE BLVD.
SCHENECTADY, NY 12305
Phone 377-1515
Richard A. DiCristofaro, Prop.

Tues. thru Fri. - 8:00 am-5:30 pm
Sat. 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

"Thank You"

(Gateway Project continued from page 1)

Street from Erie Boulevard to College Street. Concept design plans and sketches have been prepared by Richard Eats of Environmental Design Partnership working with the Stockade Gateway Task Force.

The impetus for the project was the renovation of the Van Dyck restaurant. The Schenectady Heritage Foundation and The Stockade Association members, as well as other members of the community, have been concerned for years about the condition of this major entranceway to the Stockade. The owners of the Van Dyck provided funding for the development of an initial design concept.

The concept is to have professionally landscaped public right-of-way including bollards closest to Erie Boulevard, two stone monuments, a double row of trees, new curbs and sidewalks, and a granite strip which lets people know that "as they cross over they are entering some place special." The Stockade Gateway Task Force will ensure that the design is acceptable to all parties, and Richard Eats of Environmental Design Partnership will manage and oversee the project in cooperation with the City of Schenectady Department of Engineering and Public Works.

The Task Force is informing the adjoining property owners of this plan for an attractive streetscape and is seeking their cooperation and support. Further, the Schenectady 2000 Erie Boulevard Task Force plans to add trees along Erie Boulevard in this area.

The outcome of this project will be a significant physical improvement for this Historic District and Schenectady. It will benefit businesses; religious, cultural and educational institutions; and residents and visitors of the Schenectady Stockade. This Gateway should be one that is pleasing to those passing to and from the Stockade. This project has generated the interest of many people who are working together for its success.

SAVE-MOR

CLEANERS & LAUNDERERS

21 STATE STREET SCHENECTADY, NY 12305

(518) 346-4241

Open Monday thru Friday 7 A.M.-6:30 P.M.

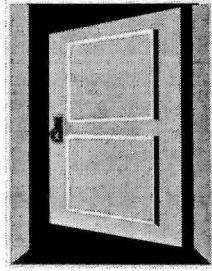
Saturday 7:30 A.M.-3P.M.

10% Discount with this Advertisement

SAME DAY DRY CLEANING AND SHIRT SERVICE AVAILABLE

Tidings

A Mass of Christian burial was held at Holy Cross Church on March 5 for Will Rogers of 147 Front Street. Will resigned from the Stockade Board of Directors last year due to ill health. He also served the Board for two years at an earlier time. Will could appreciate the beauty of the area from above as he was a certified flight instructor and a pilot for 25 years. His quiet manner and thoughtful counsel will be missed by all who knew him.



We were sorry to learn that Hal Thompson of 124 North College Street died in February. For many years Hal served as a staff writer for our *Stockade Spy* newsletter.

Former Stockade resident Merrill Brown, father of Allan Brown of 8 Front Street, passed away recently at the family homestead on Long Island. While residing in the Stockade, Merrill was Chief Counsel at the GE R&D Center in Niskayuna. He served as President of The Stockade Association from 1969 to 1971 and helped initiate the application which resulted in the Stockade Historic District being declared a landmark in 1973 when it was selected to the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior. He also helped establish a "Head Start" program at Riverside School.

Trevor and Elayne Murphy, residents of the Stockade since last September and *Stockade Spy* staff since January of this year, have been accepted to serve with the first team of Peace Corps volunteers in Jordan beginning in April. They have enjoyed their stay in the Stockade and hope to keep in touch with Stockade happenings.

Remembering Hal

Hal Thompson, another long-term and much loved member of the previous SPY staff, died on February 26, 1997. We are diminished by his death. I just came from his Memorial Service where this poem was read. There is nothing I could say that will capture his spirit as well as he does here.

Michaela French

Ring Around The Moon

I'll try to last
one more night
but my body
tells me it's time
I want to say
I love you all
This disease was not
in my mind
The aches and pains
you'll never know
the mental anguish
always there
like horns and fires
from you know where
Please think of me
when you hear the wind
or distant thunder boom
I'll be the gentle breeze
that caresses your skin
or the ring around the moon.

H. Thompson

★ American
BUSINESS CENTERS
COPIES ★ PRINTING
OFFICE SUPPLIES
FAX ★ SHIPPING
AND MORE!
124 Jay Street, Schenectady
370-8644 ★ Fax 370-8788


UPPER UNION TRAVEL, INC.
Eileen M. Julian, C.T.C.
Felicia Haytowitz
Opposite Ben & Jerry's
TEL: (518) 348-7474 FAX: (518) 348-7477
1708 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308 Telex: 4963382

Letter from the President



Jack Zegger

The strength of the Stockade neighborhood depends upon an adequate quality of life for resident homeowners and renters. People show respect for their community by following some basic rules of living in a community. Several ways that we can all help include:

- Maintain property both inside and outside. The B-2 Historic District guidelines must be followed when making changes visible from the public way.
 - Ensuring that trash is placed out for pickup on the scheduled day and time and empty containers are promptly brought in.
 - Arrange adequate sidewalk care including removal of leaves, trash, and debris.
- Dog owners should observe leash and pooper-scooper laws.
- Reduce noise, e.g. have visitors refrain from beeping horns to pick up passengers.
 - Stress to tenants the need to be considerate of neighbors; landlords are responsible for their tenants' actions.
 - Encourage homeowners and renters to report questionable activities to our Community Police Officers.

Your Association's Parks Committee has submitted its recommendations for upgrading the Riverside Park playground equipment, tennis court, and basketball court. The Board of Directors appropriated \$600 for the purchase of several trees which would be planted by the City. We have also requested the City to remove dead trees and trim healthy ones.

This year the Association will again offer \$450 in gardening and landscaping prizes. The judges for this year will be the winners of last year: Empire Data Group, Inc., Linda and Richard Wegener, and Eli Taub. So start thinking about your prize-winning garden.

If you haven't sent in your Stockade Association membership for 1996-7, please take a moment and fill out the final coupon below.

Membership dues are \$5.00 per person, tax deductible. Contributions above that amount would be appreciated. Please make payments to:

The Stockade Association

Send to: David Marhafer, Treasurer
3 Washington Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12305

Name(s) [Please print] _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Classified

Did you know that over 30 apartments are for rent in the Stockade every month? Advertise in the *Stockade Spy* Classifieds - only \$12.00 for 45 words.

Call 372-5133 for details.

COUPON

10% Off

Will Service all
Major Appliances

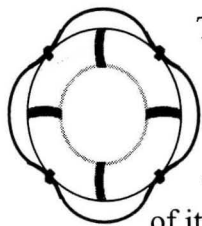
NORTHWIND SERVICE

29 North College, Schenectady, NY
(518) 374-7102

Expires April 30, 1997

OFFER VALID WITH THIS COUPON

The Harlow House



The Harlow House at 17 Front Street and Governor's Lane has much history to it. Just looking at a fabulous structure as this, one can't help but wonder what it would be like to occupy it - all of it!

But for those lucky individuals who have added to its history in the recent past, then the *Spy* would love to read some tidbits, especially about the summer months when the Harlows allowed neighbors to swim in their pool. I understand there are those who met at the pool and eventually married!

Your reminiscences will be included in the May *Spy* as a welcoming to the summer months that follow.

My first experience at the Harlow pool and property was by Mr. Harlow himself approximately seven years ago. If you look at this month's Stockade Stopper, it was behind this very door that I feasted my eyes on what I thought resembled the movie set of "Sunset Boulevard." No offense at grandeur mind you. Property owners past and present of the Stockade have elevated historic preservation beyond measure. Restoration and history go hand-in-hand. We, as a community, only further history in the making.

Let *The Spy* be a present-day Paul Revere, calling on anyone with a memory or two.

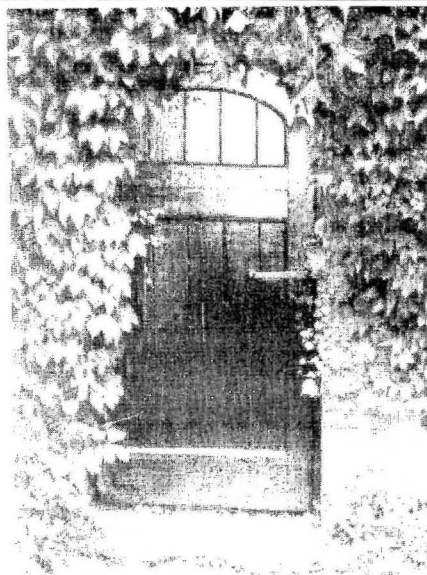
Gerald Plante

(Van Dyck continued from page 4)

early fifties and in 1958 Friedman was able to buy the Sterling Apartments next door. In 1977 he considered expanding again to add a banquet hall and more parking only to run into local concern about zoning laws and increased traffic. Despite being blocked from further growth, Marvin Friedman did create and operate an attraction known from throughout the capital district area south to New York City. Its elegant ambiance, fine food, and great jazz made it a jewel embedded in the gateway between the Stockade and the rest of Schenectady. April 1st, 1997 will celebrate the 50th year anniversary of the opening of the Van Dyck. Stop in and check it out: there is a lot of history in that house and a great future ahead.

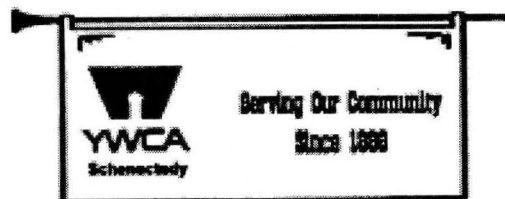
Tim Logue

Stockade Stopper



Don't garden gates evoke magic and a mysterious sense of the unknown? Functionally they simply provide access and prevent entry to stray dogs and unwanted people. But actually they're loaded with complex psychological overtones. It is a door to an implied better world, a secret garden, an inviolate place of beauty and romance. This gate on Governor's Lane into the Garden behind 17 Front Street, is a solid wooden door set into a high brick wall that creates total privacy and sets the mind racing with fantasies. The curved brick arch above the gate adds to the mystery and heightens the anticipation of what lies beyond.

Jim Schmitt A.I.A.



Waste Collection Dates

April 4th
April 11th
April 18th
April 25th