


The Stockade Spy



March 1992

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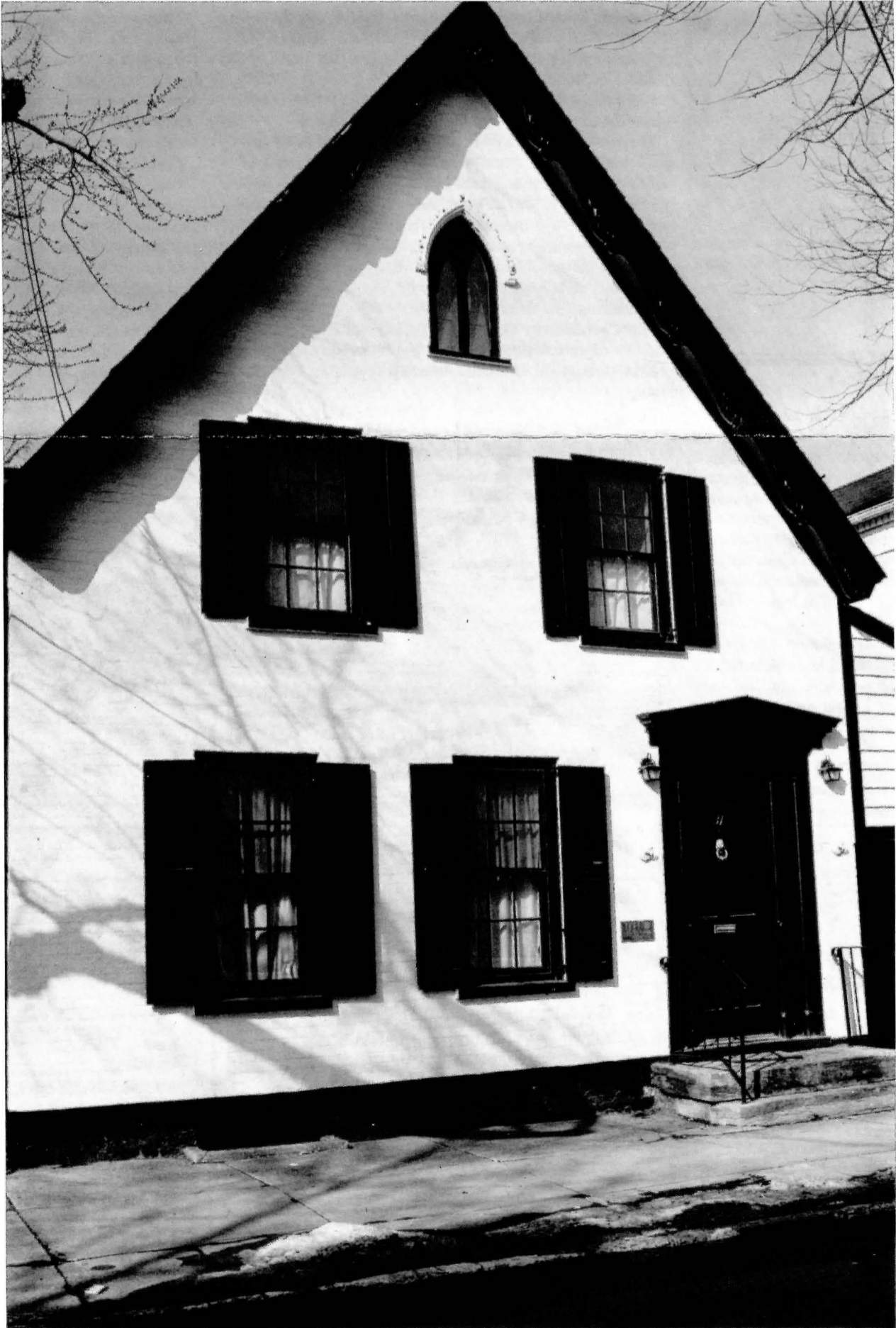


Photo by Mike Powell.



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As always we are happy to receive your comments, news, literary works, etc. Without them the **Spy** is dead! Just a few reminders, along with my thanks.

All contributions must be received by **Friday, March 20** for publication in the **April** Issue. Please be sure they are typed, double-spaced, and the **writer's name, address, and phone included**. You may leave or mail materials to 43 Washington Avenue, clearly marked for the **Spy** editor, or at staff member Wendy Espina's home, 37 Front Street. Thank you for your cooperation. In case of undue hardship in getting information typed, we will consider clearly written letters (not articles). Any original material will be returned **upon request**; otherwise no responsibility for them is taken by the **Spy** staff. We look forward to hearing from you.

Letter From The Editor

Dear Readers:

I hope the rigors of winter have not been too hard on you — it seems that just as we thought we had avoided it all, a big joke was played on us and the temperatures plummeted! It certainly made staying inside an even more pleasurable event for those of us who are not enthusiastic winter sports aficionados. Nothing like a good book and a few munchies to keep my spirits up, although I have had to forego the munchies for a few weeks while a bit of a fracture heals up in my jaw. It's strange though — going without does make the ultimate reward seem so much better than before — at least I think it will!

We are still trying to track down any buildings that are not getting the **Spy**. I tend to **hear** about them, but that is usually in the middle of something else that has my attention, and I am not really the person to take action in that area — our new business manager Peter Colangelo is. Peter has offered to remedy any problems you may find, and although we realize that if you don't get the paper you won't be reading this, we hope that a friend or neighbor will know about it and pass the word on. Peter's number is listed in the masthead, and that's his idea, so feel free to call.

Please note the information about the National Marrow Donor Program. You may not have a personal interest, but it is an amazing program which you might want to learn about. Until April (April 1992 already?) ...

Editor

Thanks ...

The staff of the **Stockade Spy** wishes to thank all those who have sent in photos or copy. We always try to use any and all contributions. Due to the lack of available space and the length of time between publications we are not always able to run submissions. Please continue sending in anything that you think our readers might find interesting.

National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)

Many of us have heard about the desperate need for bone marrow transplants in diseases such as leukemia. Perhaps you would like to find out more about this program, not only for any future reference, but to see how you might be involved.

The most successful transplants are from identical twin donors, followed by marrow from siblings. Where this is not possible there is an international program that registers donors, striving to match the donor with the patient in need of a transplant. The initial search is done by computer and can be initiated by a transplant center or an individual hematologist or oncologist. It is best to ask your doctor for information about procedures since they are quite detailed. If matches are found, a formal search can be initiated, where designated donors are further typed and cross-matched. If a potential donor is identified, there are several procedures to be completed before any agreement is reached. Some transplant centers can handle the entire process from search to transplant to aftercare, but if no such center is available there is an 800 number to call for **patient information**, resources, or assistance: **1-800-526-7809**, NMDP's Office of Patient Advocacy. Costs for transplants are extensive and should be explained by a doctor and the transplant center. Many corporations are assisting in this program, but much more needs to be done.

For **general information**, call the public NMDP number, **1-800-654-1247**.

You may become a potential donor if you are **18-55 and in good health**. Information from a preliminary blood test is stored at an NMDP affiliated blood bank or hospital, until a possible match is found. This may take years, or may never happen. There is a less than 20% chance of being called. At any time there are approximately 2,000 active searches being conducted for donors through the NMDP, with approximately 35 patients each month receiving this chance — through an unrelated marrow donor transplant.

The Coordinating Center is in Minneapolis, MN, and the number of international centers grows steadily. There are centers throughout the US, including several in New York State.

THERE IS AN EXCELLENT PACKAGE OF INFORMATION THAT WILL BE SENT TO YOU UPON REQUEST. CALL **1-800-654-1247**. The above information was taken from such a package, and it represents only a fraction of what is available.

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Colonial Schenectady Project, Ltd. A Walking Tour of The Stockade

Status Report
February 1992

As projected at the Stockade meeting last November, the brochure was printed and available for distribution in time for The Colonial Festival. Its sunny yellow highlighting provides a bright and cheerful background for the cover and the many attractive illustrations inside. Titled "The Historic Stockade in Schenectady, N.Y. — A Walking Tour", it contains maps and descriptive material for two types of tours. The side titled "Colonial Schenectady: An American Crucible" focuses on events that have special significance for our colonial heritage. The opposite side titled "The Stockade Today" describes the presently visible architecture that has resulted from the city's over 300 year existence. Both sides have stops on the tour marked with numbers that are coordinated with the extensive descriptions contained in the brochure and the audio tapes that are currently in production and are expected to be available by the coming summer season.

Unfortunately, the station markers that were to be a coordinated part of the tour and provide some of the historical information for the casual passer-by, have led a short but controversial life. The Historic Commission ruled in February that they did not consider them appropriate for the area. This means that the two now installed at stations 6 and 9 (the Indian monument and corner of Ferry and Union) will have to be removed. No date has been set but we expect that will occur sometime this spring after the ground thaws.

The brochure is now for sale (\$5.00) at the Urban Cultural Park Visitors' Center (at the Schenectady Museum) and at Arthur's Market. Plans are being implemented to make them available at numerous other places in the Stockade and surrounding Schenectady area.

Even if "Walking Touring" is still a little brisk for your liking, the brochure provides some fascinating glimpses into our history and will whet your interest in taking to the streets as soon as the winter cold abates a little.

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Tidings

March is a month I always look forward to — it signals the beginning of the end of winter. It also celebrates a holiday that reminds me that though we are all Americans, in fact, we did all come from somewhere else. March celebrates the Irish — and what a remarkable group. From their wonderful proverbs to their clever limericks and of course, James Joyce. And never let it be said that the Irish don't always stir up the pot ... as Samuel Johnson said, "The Irish are fair people, they never speak well of each other." But it t'ain't so here in the Stockade. We share the "gift of gab" and the gift of friendship — and we all share in each other's good news ...

As Mother Nature put on her winter cloak — some folks headed for some warm sunshine — while Steve and Jessica Spacil of Front St. came back from St. Croix, looking wonderfully refreshed, I might add.

Some folks don't pay any mind to the weather — it's the families getting together that keeps them warm. Jim and Darlene Duggan of North St. recently enjoyed a visit by their daughter Anna. Anna lives in Durham, North Carolina, where she is a recruiter for Duke University Graduate Studies. Their daughter Susan, a student at Junior College of Albany, returned home after spending the fall term in Paris. Susan attended the Parsons School of Design last semester, on an art scholarship awarded to her by J.C.A. In her spare time, Susan is also a critical care nurse at Ellis Hospital. And that's not all folks ... our very own Karen Pandell, of Union St. has all kinds of good news. A while ago, I told you about a wonderful children's book she had written called **By Day and By Night**. Her book was recently awarded the "ABC" (A Book Can Develop Empathy) Award by the New York State Humane Association. The Association describes Karen's work as a "beautifully illustrated book which deals with the concept that nature, animals, and people are all interconnected. Brings forth a sense of appreciation for that relationship." I was given the book for Erik, and though he's too young to understand the concepts, the book is a favorite of his because of the "pictures." It's the perfect gift for new moms, or for younger children.

Karen also just signed a contract with Dutton Children Books in New York City for her next book which will be released in either Fall '92 or Spring '93. Congratulations and hearty Stockade kudos to you.

And last but not least — **HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to our beloved J. Dawson van Eps — who just gets better and better.

That's about it from here. It would seem we're finally creeping out of the deep freeze (not a moment too soon, I might add) and it's not just Mother Nature who's getting warmer. The political scene is starting to heat up — I'd like to see if these guys can "keep their cool" a little better than the last time around. By the time y'all get this, New Hampshire will be over and the race will be on for real. I hope we can get beyond tabloid level revelations to discussing what's really important, like how in the hell can we clean up the health care mess, just to name one. If any of you have any ideas — and I know you do, drop us a line. And of course, if you have any good news — please share it with the rest of us. Then we get to enjoy it as much as you do. In the meantime, **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY** — and may the "luck 'o the Irish be with ye" ... See you next month.

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The "What's Wrong With The Economy Blues..."

A nagging uneasiness has become a constant companion to many Americans — there is something very wrong with our economy — but no one, not even the "experts" seem to know what to do to "make it better." This time, however, it's going to take a bit more than aspirin and chicken soup and meaningless soundbites.

I think a big part of this uneasiness stems from the appalling disregard shown the American people by their elected officials — starting with the President. For me, it is a feeling of betrayal — when I elect someone, it means that I have entrusted him/her to watch over my Constitutional rights, as well as care for and take care of me and the rest of his/her constituents. Indeed, the government has defined its role in its actions...Let's take a look at some of the more offensive acts...

Many Americans lost their life savings in the Savings and Loan debacle...yet many insiders were aware of the abuses going on. The whistle blowers were ignored, or shuttled to positions where they couldn't interfere. Only after the insiders had reaped an obscene financial benefit did the government begin to acknowledge that there was a big management problem with the Savings and Loan Industry. Of course, the ultimate irony to me is that now the TAXPAYERS are expected to pay back the excesses of our government officials. I don't need to tell you that I resent the hell out of this. Why can't the newly enriched "fat cats" just return all the profits they made by abusing the system??? Even the President's son tried to get away with this nonsense...like father, like son...

Anyway, I think I've made my point...why do we feel so uneasy — because many of our government officials have shown us quite clearly their reasons for becoming public officials. But — what we must all remember is that most of our politicians are sincere in their desire to preserve our Constitutional rights and to make the U.S. the best it can be — unfortunately, it takes just one to ruin it for the rest of us. Many of us don't have faith in our government doing what is best for the greater good, and this sense of helplessness has resulted in a frightening apathy about our power to bring about real change.

I write this whole scenario as a plea to get involved — know that you can make a difference. It's up to each of us to get rid of the crooks. Look at the candidates, learn about what they stand for, look at their past promises and **whether or not they kept them**, and how they plan to make what they say happen. And finally, get out there and vote!!!!

Wendy Espina

By the aid of language, we are able, to some extent, to compare our observations. Those about which we agree we call real.

Albert Einstein

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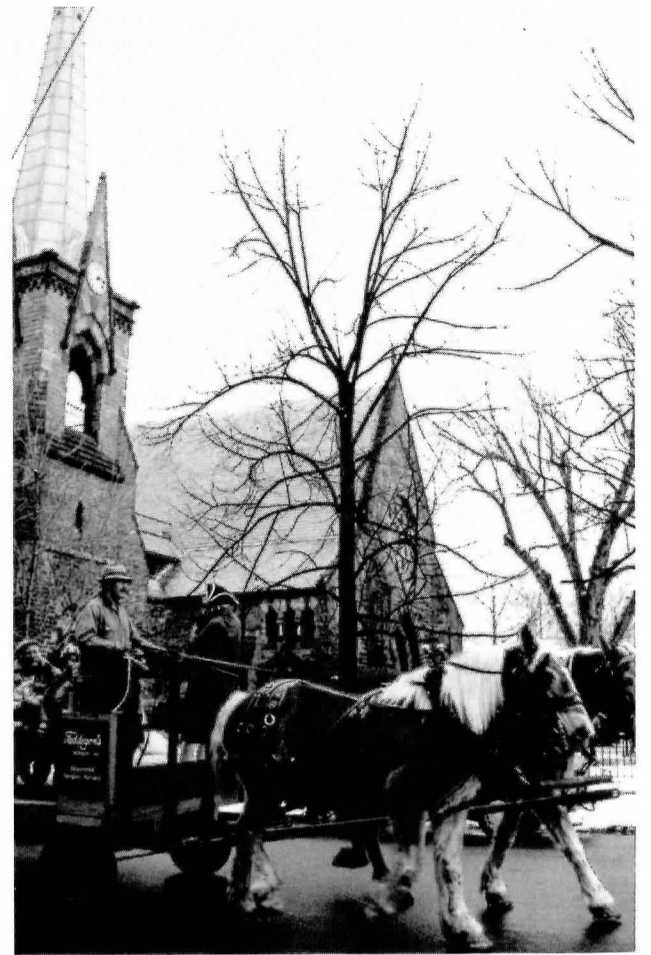
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Environmental Notes

Not much seems to change on the "WASTE" scene. The Albany-Schenectady-Troy area is already classified as exceeding federal air quality standards for ozone under the 1990 Clean Air Act, yet the debate goes on. Green Island is the proposed site for an incinerator, and the Village Board approved a proposal from American Ref-Fuel to construct an incinerator. Opponents try to emphasize that incinerators, while high tech and seemingly "safe," compete with the ultimate goal we should be striving to reach: recycling, or stopping the wasteful packaging now so prevalent. We often hear that recycling is expensive — so is incinerating, but there is more of a payoff for corporations in the latter, therefore more PR. As usual we look for treating the problem, not the cause. An interesting table in ECOS NEWS, December 1991, showed the price of packaging:

Tomatoes, packaged \$2.22/lb., unwrapped, \$1.79/lb.

Coffee, pre-filled filters, \$6.74/lb., by the can \$3.95/lb.

Rice, microwavable, \$5.71/lb., bulk \$0.35/lb.

I could go on but I am sure you get the picture. Some firms are accepting the bulky foam protective inserts from customers; RE-SOURCE AMERICA (Southampton, PA) receives the foam, sends it to the manufacturer for reuse or recycling — sounds like a good idea. I hope it works.

Dolphins: although I hear that some tuna canners are abusing the "dolphin free" label, I also hear that 509 dolphins were killed by fishermen in 1991 compared with 4861 in 1990 and 8000 in 1989. WHY? Because people like you and me decided to boycott tuna fisheries using nets that caught dolphins. Of course the tuna don't win on that score, but it seems we have more feeling for the dolphins — just as we believe they have more feeling for us! ECOS, 12/91.

It cost \$450 million for one days' bombing in the Persian Gulf War — the same as the cost of a new treatment plant in the city of New Bedford, MA, mandated by Congress in Clean Water Act amendments passed but not funded! ECOS, 12/1991

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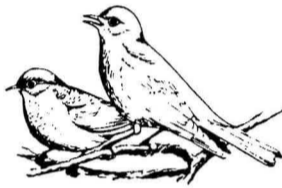
Lawrence Commemorative Plate

You can now get a commemorative plate featuring **Lawrence the Indian!** The Junior League of Schenectady, Inc., recently introduced a limited edition procelain dessert plate featuring none other than Lawrence. The plate is 7½" and is fashioned after the Presidential china of the 1800's, with a cobalt blue rim and edged with textured 22K gold. An informative description of Schenectady's beginnings and the role Lawrence played is included. Gift boxed, the cost of the plate is \$22.50, and is available at the Next to New Shop, 453 State Street, or by calling the Junior League at 370-1902.

Source of the Binnekill?

It seems that there are waters that flow underground in Schenectady, some that once flowed into what was the Binnekill. The unidentified water, coming from two large pipes, that we showed in last month's picture with the article on the Stockade Association program, is apparently from something that was known as "Cowhorn Creek," and was a waterway that wound its way around what is now Schenectady, ending in the Binnekill. That was before such construction as that now housing Price Chopper on Eastern Parkway, GE and the Van Curler (now SCCC which added more construction) dumped lots of "stuff" into the Creek bed. Our roving photographer gave me this bit of information, and I do not claim to have verified it at all, but perhaps someone might be sufficiently interested to pursue it further. If you do, let us know the answer!

RMF



March Waste Collection Dates

March 6	Friday
March 13	Friday
March 20	Friday
March 27	Friday
April 3	Friday

- * Waste collection pickup starts at 6:30 a.m.
 - * Don't put waste on the curb before 7:00 p.m. on the night before collection.
 - * Separate your yard waste and leaves.
 - * Separate your newspapers.
- Any questions? Call the HOTLINE: 382-3144.

Where to go for recycling

Weaver Street Transfer Station Schenectady Hours: 9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Saturdays	Accepts: tin cans, plastic containers, glass bottles
Sofco Inc. 702 Corporation Park Scotia Hours: 7:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. weekdays	Accepts: magazines, telephone books, circulars and third class mail
County Farm Hetcheltown Road Glenville Hours: 8 a.m. — 3 p.m. Monday — Friday 9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Saturday	Accepts: newspapers, corrugated cardboard, tin and aluminum cans, aluminum foil containers, plastic containers, clear and colored glass, household batteries, junk mail and magazines

Construction Debris:

The Weaver Street transfer station is accepting construction and demolition debris. There will be a charge of \$20 per cubic yard, averaging about \$60 for a pickup full of debris. Material will be accepted from residents and small contractors in the city, Scotia and Glenville between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturdays.

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