



November 1994

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Photo by Mike Powell

The Stockade Association  
**General**  
**Membership Meeting**  
*"Open to All Stockade Residents"*

Thursday, November 17, 1994  
The Mohawk Club  
7:00 pm Social  
7:30 pm Program/Business

Agenda

*Special Guest*

Commissioner Mills

Committee Reports

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## STOCKADE SPY

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## Letter from the editor

Dear readers,

When you read this I will be back amongst you, happily reading the November SPY and very appreciative of all the work the staff did to get the October issue out. Taking time out for vacation while we are in "production" time is a new experience for me, but I had absolute confidence that all would go well.

When I left the break from all the heat and humidity was in full swing -- enough so that it reminded me there is such a thing as winter. October is that nudge to say "I'm back, and you know what follows me don't you?" Yet what a beautiful month October is, especially here in the northeast. I am awestruck each autumn with the colors, the freshness of the air, and the energy that returns once too much heat gives way. This is a purely subjective opinion of course, and I know many who are only energized when it is HOT. It's a good thing that different climates are experienced in different ways, it gives us yet another way to understand the variety we represent.

Many of you have noted various problems we continue to experience: thoughtless people who park on sidewalks, obstructing passage for pedestrians, especially those who need canes, walkers, or wheelchairs to be mobile; pedestrians who, forgetting they are sometimes either motorists or ride in cars, deliberately take their lives into their hands by crossing in front of moving vehicles; some who continue to litter, and to put out disreputable garbage (is any respectable?) despite the valiant efforts of Stockaders to clean up the park and to observe city regulations; drivers who can't take a few seconds to go the right way around Lawrence, or who abuse the one way streets. Why? Perhaps because if there are laws/regulations concerning such behavior it is not enforced (if courtesy was practiced, laws would not be necessary). However we do see the violations, sometimes under the view of a patrol car that may not stop. It's in our hands to let the police know we are aware of violations, especially if we see the patrol car in the vicinity. Life can be better, but not if all we do is grumble to each other -- let's take responsibility!

Oh well, those are some of the negative things I observe, but there are many positive ones. Living in this area has many such pluses, like watching all the wonderful improvements residents make to their homes, how weeds are removed from front sidewalks and pots of blooms put there, and the glow of porch-lights in the evening to give a welcome to passersby (and provide added security to one's home), all these enhance our neighborhood and are noticed daily -- though too often we tend to vocalize only the negatives. Let me say, on a personal note, it is you who do care who let me know when I'm away that I will enjoy my return, no matter how wonderful the respite.

Remember to be an active member of our community if you want to see it preserved. Come to the General Meeting and hear your neighbors! Until then, remember to send in YOUR pros and cons to share with us all.  
The editor

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

For over 30 years the Stockade Association has been an influence in preserving the integrity of the Historic District. Since the Board of Directors is made up of volunteers, most of whom have demanding, full-time jobs as well as other commitments, I believe the strength of the Association will always be related to the participation of individual residents. We, all of us, must be the Association.

In the past two months, Barbara Sauer and Marie Eoff shared their thoughts in letters to the Editor of the Spy, our fine vehicle of information to the neighborhood. Each of us can identify problems that diminish the quality of life for residents, suggest solutions, and help the Board carry them out.

Perhaps we should consider having "Block Representatives," covering small segments of the Stockade. As an example: with ten people willing to be representatives (I can think of 5 or more willing people already), we could cover all of Front Street to College Street and the five streets leading to Riverside Park.

Representatives could:

- \* Receive telephone calls or memos placed in their mailboxes by neighbors.
- \* Consolidate information to pass on to the President and other Board members.
- \* Maintain lists of telephone numbers of interested residents.

(Both the Stockade Association and the Heritage Foundation have recommended a Stockade telephone committee to inform residents of issues, public hearings, and the like.)

Other suggestions:

- \* Read local newspapers carefully and consider how events may impact the Stockade.
- \* Attend Meetings - The Stockade Association's General Meetings; City Council; County Legislative Meetings; Public Hearings
- \* Support Stockade Association Committees
- \* Be Heard: Speak up, write letters.

This is an opportunity to recognize with thanks the many hours (both apparent and behind-the-scenes) spent on Stockade problems by the Board of Directors of the Stockade Association. Recognition is also due the Spy Staff, members of the Heritage Foundation and Historic Neighborhoods Coalition, the Neighborhood Watch, and the many other Stockaders who, as individuals, devote their time to strengthen the neighborhood.

Jean Zegger



## Light Up the Tree

Do you drip with human kindness during the holidays, or do you cringe at the sight of red velvet and white beard. Angel or Scrooge -- join other Stockadians on Sunday, December fourth (4th) at 4:30 pm. at the Indian for the Annual Christmas tree ceremony and carol sing.

An informal gathering will be held afterwards in St. George's Great Hall.

Bring your favorite finger food to share with others!

Volunteers please call Jack Zegger, 393-7669 or Diane Buckley, 372-1863.

**RAIN, SHINE OR SNOW, THIS IS THE DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING!**

## Supporting the G.E. Realty Plot

The G.E. Realty Plot and Union College are two of Schenectady's greatest assets, and they are currently at odds. The residents of the Plot are earnestly against rezoning Lenox Road between Nott Street and Union Avenue to permit Union College to use about five homes they own as offices. These are some of the reasons why I support the G.E. Plot:

\* I believe that residents of a neighborhood have the greatest understanding of what makes it stable and the greatest stake in keeping it that way.

\* A major characteristic of the Historic G.E. Plot is its single-family residences, and the City of Schenectady as a whole would be diminished without such a neighborhood.

\* Although the College is proposing that employees and visitors park on the campus and walk across Lenox Road, I believe the Plot residents are correct: that it is human nature for people to park in the most convenient place, and it would be difficult to monitor.

\* To permit a change of zoning, in this instance, would render zoning regulations in Schenectady without meaning. In 1984, a zoning ordinance amendment eliminated most special use permits in the Plot. Also if such a permit were granted, it would set a precedent and open the door for other institutions that have shown an interest in the Plot, further eroding the neighborhood. Union College owns other homes and vacant land in the Plot, and their fate is undetermined.

\* Union College has other options for its space needs, and one of them is to acquire the Department of Social Services Building (at token cost). This would seem in the greatest long-term interest of the College, helping to stabilize Nott Street at the College's border.

\* The booklet "Schenectady 2000 Conceptual Design" states that each neighborhood "should adopt a plan to preserve and enhance the essential qualities of the area which the residents want to maintain." The residents of the G.E. Plot have identified in the strongest terms what they believe are these "essential qualities." We hope the City Council will support them.

Please call me if you would like to support the G.E. Plot by signing a petition to the City Council to reject the proposal by Union College to rezone the residential properties it owns.

Jean B. Zegger  
393-7669

## Errata

An apology to Marie Eoff for some editorial errors in her October SPY letter. It should have referred to Barbara Panetta Sauer's letter. Also the final paragraph should have read as follows:

Whether it be crime, the encroachment of multi social service agencies and programs, the traffic, lack of involvement by homeowners and renters, or the absentee landlords not keeping their properties presentable, I am concerned about the lack of our city fathers' attention to this fragile part of Schenectady. It is time for the Stockade Association and its elected Board to keep the main focus of their agenda upon the preservation of this Historic District at all costs, and to address all of the above mentioned concerns before it is too late.

## Tidings

November closes in again. When Mark Twain was born in November 1835, Halley's comet flashed in the night sky. Twain often mentioned this, and came to consider himself and the comet as "unaccountable freaks" which, having come in together, must go out together. He was right: when he died in April 1910, Halley's comet was again in the sky.

The Stockade lost a longtime resident and friend last month. Frank J. Marro of Green Street passed away after a long illness. Mr. Marro served with the Schenectady Police Force for 38 years, retiring in 1985. Many Stockade residents and nonresidents will remember Frank as the parking attendant at St. George's church for Sunday morning church services. Condolences to his family and friends.

Congratulations go out to Stockade residents Pat Marshall of Washington Ave and Karen Engelke of Front Street. They have been appointed by Mayor Duci to a waterfront development committee. Their job is to brainstorm ways to improve the waterfront along the Mohawk River. Keep up the good work, ladies.

New on North College St. are Michael Bobnick and Jeff Smith. Michael is a camera operator for television station WRGB, channel 6. Jeff is a program director for Mohawk Opportunities in Mental Health. Welcome to the neighborhood, guys!

Jessica and Steve Spacil of Front Street recently returned from a trip to the state of Washington. In Seattle they visited with their daughters and their families. Also back from an extended vacation is our *Spy* editor, Michaela French who was in England visiting family and friends for most of September. Speaking of the *Spy*, staff member Paul Spencer is just fresh from a two-week excursion visiting his sister and her family in Boulder, Colorado. Welcome back folks!

Have you noticed the sidewalks at 115 Union Street {corner of Ferry & Union}, 201, 203 and 205 Union have had extensive rehabilitation and replacement? H. Charles Schneiderwind Jr., of the Ingersoll House at 203 Union comments that the Union Street corridor and the Stockade area are the "jewel in the tip of the crown." Thanks to all the homeowners for making our neighborhood "shine."

This is the month that we give thanks to family and friends for all the thoughtfulness and compassion throughout the year. I, for one, would like to give a big thank you to everyone who has submitted information for this column and articles for the *Spy*. This is your newspaper and I want to thank you for taking advantage of this unique forum. Keep those cards and letters coming! Until next month, here's wishing a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

## Call for Submissions

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, November 18**, for publication in the **December 1994** issue. Please be sure they are typed, double spaced, signed with the **writer's name, address, and phone included**. You may mail materials to Riverside Condos, **137 Front Street, #105**, clearly marked for the *Spy* editor, or leave them in the *SPY* basket in the open foyer in back of the building. Thank you for your cooperation. In case of undue hardship in getting information typed, we will consider clearly written letters (not articles). If you've entered the computer age, we would appreciate finding your submission on an MS-DOS disk in WordPerfect or ASCII format, so we don't have to typeset. Disks and any original material will be returned **upon request**; otherwise no responsibility for them is taken by the *Spy* staff.

## A Neighbor Cares

Jim Fowler played a big part in the gradual change for the better in the atmosphere this summer at Riverside (Rotundo) Park. He saw to it that violation signs were posted, and kept his eye on the people who were generally abusing the shared use intent of a neighborhood park.

The Stockade Association's cleanup day helped to instill a sense of pride in the area, and the number of park users increased, responsibly picking up stray items, and reminding others to use the trash baskets.

The result is a far more relaxed park scene. Children played baseball and touch football -- even croquet. A hopscotch layout was drawn on the sidewalk in brightly colored chalks. It was poignant and reassuring to see. Use your park -- stroll down to the riverside and check it out.

D.B.

## Special Events

"Step Into the Symphony," a seminar series featuring a nuts and bolts approach to understanding and enjoying classical music. Taught by SSO Music Director, Charles Schneider. There are three evening lectures at Union College, and a dress rehearsal and final concert at Proctor's Theatre. Call 388-6288 for more information.

### The 19th STOCKADE-ATHON November 13, 1994

The Gazette Newspapers will sponsor this annual event, organized by the Hudson Mohawk Road Runners Club. It is a 15 kilometer road race, starting in Central Park at 10:30 a.m. and following the course through the city to the historic Stockade district. Residents will watch those who persevere, cheering them on to the finish.



### Dawson Van Eps' Goal

### Sunday, November 20, 1994 • 3p.m.

This Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Senior makes her piano concert debut with a full symphony orchestra at this SSO concert. Many regional concert goers know Jennifer Chu as a violinist with the Empire State Youth Orchestra.

Roumanian Rhapsody No. 1  
Capriole Suite (Strings)  
Piano Concerto No. 1  
Op. 25 in G minor,  
Jennifer Chu, soloist  
Symphony No. 6

Enesco  
Warlock  
Mendelssohn  
Beethoven



Jennifer Chu



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## Environmental Notes

The controversy between scientists and environmentalists is too complex to discuss in a short column, but there is one thing concerning trees that has a happy ending. The bark from the Pacific yew was the source for a new anti-cancer drug, Taxol, and was in great demand by scientists. Bristol-Myers Squibb was using this source material from the slow growing yew. The bark is difficult to obtain because of strict laws governing national forests, resulting in poachers stealing it for sale and the trees becoming subject to destruction. Laws to make this illegal were hard to enforce (why?) but now there is good news. Researchers found that a precursor of Taxol could be made from clippings from ornamental shrub varieties of the yew instead of the bark previously harvested from forests. These are easily grown and U.S. companies are already planting millions of them, testing them for the necessary compounds, and will become competitive with the European and Himalayan varieties presently producing for an Italian company which sells it to Bristol-Myers Squibb. So, while we would like to think it was for altruistic reasons that Bristol-Myers Squibb has changed its policy, we all know that the almighty dollar speaks louder than good intentions. Regardless of why, the result is good for both science, the economy, and the environment (taken from a Sunday Gazette article 3/20/94).

Lots of complaints about our recycling efforts going to "waste" -- no pun intended. It seems that although you and I do what we are asked, it is the plastic items, those that are easiest to throw in the right bin, that cause the most problems in re-using. If this is true, why don't we go back to using glass and paper? IS there an answer? The debate rages among producers, collectors, and, most importantly, policy makers. One thing is certain -- although less packaging has helped, it has a long way to go yet. Watch what you buy and don't go for the cutesy containers that have no purpose beyond advertising and profit for the manufacturers.

\* The Esleek paper company makes 100% cotton "Blue Jean Bond" paper from trimmings from jean manufacturers.

\* Bangladesh has banned plastic bags. They were filling the streets, clogging sewers, and being eaten by livestock.

\* Engineers are field testing a new microwave clothes dryer which dries in half the time at low temperatures and big energy savings. Prices will be higher, but savings on energy costs should offset them. (\* items from ECOS Newsletter July/August 1994)

RMF

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## Report It!

Police phones come in more than one configuration. Depending on what you need to report, there is a department to take your call. The following situations are most often encountered:

Vandalism -- report any incidents  
Vagrancy and noise disturbance  
Assault, theft, and burglary.

Statistics on these calls are retained and are available under the Freedom of Information Act. These help us define response time and the Stockade's need for protection. BE PERSISTENT if you want results!

Police Department Numbers:

Emergency	374-7744
Drug Hotline	382-5252
Traffic Division	382-5211
General Information	382-5200
Non-emergency complaints	382-5264



## Mabee Farm Symposium Date Change

The Mabee Farm Symposium, November 12, 1994  
**Planning its Fourth Century**

Due to a scheduling problem the date of the Mabee Farm Symposium has been changed to Saturday, November 12, 1994.

There will be short presentations on the Mabee family, the structures on the property, and how the farm fits into the history of the Mohawk Valley. Much of the time will be devoted to questions and discussing what direction the farm should take in its fourth century.

Please join us between nine and four at the Historical Society, and then adjourn to the farm itself for tea. Make your reservation by calling the Historical Society at 374-0263.



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## November Waste Collection Dates

November 2	Wednesday
November 10	Thursday
November 18	Friday
November 29	Tuesday
December 6	Tuesday

\* Waste Collection Pickup Starts at 6:30 a.m.

\* Don't put waste on the curb before 2:00 p.m. the day before.

### Remember to recycle:

Green, clear and brown bottles and jars; plastic bottles with necks and metal cans, should be placed into a recycling container marked "Container Product."\* Separate magazines, newspaper, brown paper (grocery bags), and corrugated cardboard and place into a recycling container marked "Paper Product."\*

\* Note: As of July 15, 1994, clean Drink Boxes & Juice/Milk Cartons are now recyclable, just add them to the bin marked "Container Product".

Junk Mail, Catalogs and Telephone Books are now recyclable, just place in paper bag and add them to the bin marked for "Paper Product".

For answers to recycling questions call the Recycling Hotline 382-5060.

### Recycling Centers

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 & third class mail

County Farm - Hetcheltown Road, Glenville

Hours: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Friday

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays

Accepts: newspapers, corrugated cardboard, tin and aluminum cans, aluminum foil containers, colored glass, household batteries, junk mail, magazines and phone books.

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## TOM JARDAS ANTIQUES

*I'm looking for objects, books, posters, photos, pamphlets, autographs - anything related to the following subjects:*

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RELIGIOUS SECTS - SLAVERY - TEMPERANCE  
LABOR MOVEMENT - GUNS - MEDICAL - MAGIC  
RAILROADS - OCEAN LINERS - GAMBLING  
THEATER - CIRCUS - SPORTS - OLYMPICS  
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