

THE STOCKADE SPY



October 1995

Published by the Stockade Association

Vol. 36 No. 7





STOCKADE SPY

Editor
Business Manager
Tidings
Staff

R. Michaela French
Eileen Camasso
Hal Thompson
Diane Buckley
Paul Spencer

Sponsors - Stockade Association

President
Vice President
Treasurer

Jack Zegger
Joe Bernat
Dave Marhafer

Letter from the editor

Let's get serious for a minute. Can anyone explain to me how it is okay for cities or states to approve of gambling as long as it is going to fill the coffers (read pockets) of local or state government (read what you will), supposedly to pay for education or some such worthy cause? Yet despite millions spent every day, week, or what have you, the causes go begging, their funding cut, because, so we are told "We don't want government." Okay, but what is it we want? More bureaucracy from 50 political entities, and not enough to keep the leaders content, so we turn to gambling? I get disgusted when I see a flourishing downtown business is the OTB, when retailers ring up more sales on lotteries than on products, and many consumers have no money except what I and other taxpayers give out. What are we subsidizing? We still debate whether we should have MORE and easier access to gambling, although it has been shown to cause much misery among families. Of course there are some who can "afford" it; does that justify our pretending that gambling will be a panacea for our ills. Please prove me wrong!

Do you read the fine print? Such information is hidden in this clever guise, as if it is not important enough to print large. But that is where we are duped by insurance companies, retail sales, and, oh yes, AND politicians. Take contracts: better yet, read them, carefully, and see what you discover. For example, the big contract of the season we have all watched being pushed pell mell through the House. It's the fine print that worries many of us -- with good cause. Of course I'm interested in the environment, and many of the "contract" provisions sounded as if they were too -- until the fine print. That's all, but it goes for many other "contracts."

Don't say I didn't warn you!

On to happier thoughts; what a great group the SPY staff is, fun to work with and really hard workers too. We managed to get the September SPY out ahead of time, and now are working on October's issue. That's cooperation, and happily it's also camaraderie.

I was wrong when I said no one applauded Pataki's idea of a move to Kingston. The Daily Gazette, August 18, 1995 has a letter fully supporting it and pointing out all the benefits we will reap. The writer? Oh yes: Board chairman of the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce. I'm sure if the locations were reversed we would find the same mouthing from our own representative government.

Back at the ranch, summer has been rather pleasant. This old building keeps quite cool, even without the assistance of air conditioning, and coming from my open-window-aired car it was great. As the sun eased off a little there was a walk by the river, up and down the old streets -- always something new to see -- and time to admire the many lovely tubs and window boxes of flowers that adorned the sidewalks. Thanks to all of you who may do it for yourselves, but who make so many others pleased too. This is all a bit of a potpourri, but I need to get my thoughts out to you. You can always fire me.

Pensively,
The editor

Villager's Outdoor Art Show

After a one day delay for rain, the Villager's Outdoor Art Show was held on Sunday, September 10, 1995. Special exhibits included autographed pencil drawings of famous people sketched by Mayor Frank Duci and examples of the work of Sarah Delorenzo, winner of the Villager's Art Award, presented to an outstanding graduating senior at Schenectady High School. The award was \$250.

Judges for this year's show were Matthew Wienhiemer, John Watrous, and Dorothy Dietrich. The winners were: First; Mary Occhiogrosso, second; Crystal Daigle, Third; John Hand. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Jason Nemel, Karen Rosasco, Elizabeth Apgar Smith, Deborah Geurtze, I. Joseph and Ellen Crane. Additional selections were also chosen to be part of an exhibit at the Schenectady Museum show, The Best from the Villager's Outdoor Art Show. Work by the following artist will be presented; Lucy Suhr, Pat Clifford, Joan Heilie, Lou Snitkoff, Donna Mora, Judy Rosell, Fran Mehm, Peter Prince and Catherine DeSalle. A cash prize of \$100 was given to Richard Sacchetti by the Oak Room Artists. This award is given in memory of James Gilliland, long time member of the Oak Room Artists and The Villager's board.

Stockade Association Board Meetings

August, 9 & September, 13

The Stockade Association has a new post office box: P.O. Box 1007 Schenectady, New York 12301.

Bill Seber, director of parks and recreation, has installed six swings in Riverside Park. The Association resolved to donate \$200.00 to the Committee for the Preservation of Schenectady Parks for the swings.

Also resolved: \$30.00 to be given to the Stockade Garden Club for planting of mums in the garden at the Washington Park side of Riverside Park.

Our Association has renewed its membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

A Landmark Remembered

Phil McCombs, Washington Post staff writer, was in town, reminiscing as we do so often in that indeterminate stage we call "maturity." Back in Washington he wrote a recollection of the events he experienced, including a grand piece about Arthur's. I have borrowed outrageously from the memories he wrote about.

First grade at Riverside School. A wall reminding McCombs of a friend -- and a brick. A cracked sidewalk, its deterioration helped by boys with a hammer and mischief. One grocery store, no longer there, just an attorney's office, but memories dawdle, and it was Arthur who exchanged candy for a nickel. A friendly, if not exactly familiar face, Pete Polachek, led to swapped tales of the Stockade (or was it The Village then?).

The visitor first saw the "new" Arthur's on this time warp, for the store moved to its present location in '51 -- after McCombs had left, seeking his destiny. Pete told him of the daily happenings, how Arthur still works every day in the store, sharing his patience with those of us who demur -- sympathizing with customers who mourn the loss of the nickel as barter, refusing to give up the personal service he has always extended, accommodating his losses, historical and intimate, with courage "in the little ways," as poet Anne Sexton says.

Although honored by the City as a "Patroon," Arthur knows there are other ways to be remembered. Without monetary ambition he has success. Pete follows him, perhaps with newer plans, but the same underlying philosophy. Thank you Phil McComb, for telling the outer world about our good fortune.

RMF

President's Corner

Summer of '95

The weather was beautiful, and for the Stockade community there were both bright and not-so bright times. On the bright side, it was encouraging to see homes being restored and repainted. Planters of flowers beautified the sidewalks and discouraged sidewalk parking. Nevertheless, some cars parked illegally, and the Association has provided block representatives with yellow courtesy cards as reminders for such vehicles.

The former Van Dyck Restaurant is in the process of being purchased. The new owners plan to operate it as a restaurant and jazz club. The Association supported the request to permit an extension of the legal non-conforming use at the August 2, 1995, Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Also, there is a potential buyer for the former Boy Scouts Building at 2 Union Street. We are encouraged by new homeowners at 3 and 23 Washington Avenue, 7 and 14 Union Street, 22 North Church Street, 6 and 121 Front Street. We believe there will be others to mention soon.

Many thanks to the Stockade Garden Club for tending the entrance to Riverside Park at Washington Avenue. Riverside Park was generally neat although the grass could have been cut more often and debris removed by the City's subcontractor. It's delightful to see young children using the new playground swings provided by the Association. Regrettably, the summer brought several break-ins and muggings. These seemed to be crimes of opportunity, which neighborhoods across America are facing. We urge everyone to keep outside doors locked at all times and windows secured properly. Lock car doors and leave nothing of value inside. Provide homes with front and rear lighting. Some of our streets, for example Green Street, would benefit by additional lighting. In the May 1995 SPY Vice-President Joe Bernat had some excellent suggestions for improved safety. Our Neighborhood Watch Program is currently expanding and we need additional volunteers (see separate article).

Litter invites more litter. Let's remove it when we see it, along with the weeds and fallen leaves around our houses. Follow guidelines for putting out trash and returning containers.

Schenectady's real estate market and declining tax base is a matter of concern. It affects the City's ability to provide basic services and also our school system. We look to a brighter future for Schenectady and can help by becoming involved in such activities as the Stockade Association, Schenectady 2000, COMPASS, Mentoring in the schools and other volunteer efforts.

Letter to the editor

Dear Stockade Spy,

Thanks for the buildup in the September issue. It was very nice of you and appreciated.

Since my move to Schaffer Heights on August 14th everyone asks how Matilda, my cat, has adjusted and no one asks about how I have adjusted. The answer to the question, even though I'm unasked, is very well.

About Matilda the answer is also very well. She was mad at me for about one week because of the forced conversion of being an outdoor cat to an indoor cat. Now she realizes that she can eat just as well, perhaps better and there are just as many comfortable places to sleep. As for friends she was always reclusive and there are no other cats to infringe on her territory.

Very sincerely
Dawson Van Eps

Here to Help

with
Customized Insurance Programs



Lawrence Group, Inc.
430 State Street
Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 372-0500

Rome, Cortland, McIntosh or Empire - whatever your choice, apple season is once more upon us and time for an apple story about John XXIII. As papal nuncio to France, the future pope (1958 - 63) was once invited to a banquet. His dinner partner wore an extremely low-cut dress, which the prelate pretended not to notice during the meal. However, when dessert was served, he chose a rosy apple and offered it to the lady. She politely refused. "Please do take it, madam," he urged. "It was only after Eve ate the apple that she became aware of how little she had on."

Best of luck to Stockade resident Dan Ertel who purchased and reopened Peggy's Restaurant on State Street after a 30 month hiatus. With staff from the former La Patisserie - Joyce Stabile will be the restaurant manager and Lance Moore the chef. The restaurant is open from 7AM to 3PM Monday to Friday for breakfast and lunch, and on evenings when Proctor's has a performance.

Another new business in the Stockade area is Epic Adventure Wear, Inc. Epic has an assembly and retail store of polar fabric outerwear at the Barney Square Building at 225 State Street. Owner Hobie Walker is a long-time Schenectady resident whose parents once lived on Cucumber Alley in the Stockade.

Congratulations and a big welcome to the neighborhood to Steve Graves and his bride, Pell. The couple are making their home at 22 North Street. Steve is the son of Betsy and Guy Graves who live now on Lake George and Verno Beach, Florida. And congratulations to Nancy Ruller and David Lisicki of Front Street who were married in late August and spent a week in Rockport, Mass.

Also, congratulations go to Marilyn Fisher of Washington Ave. on her retirement from Schenectady City Schools. Marilyn has taught for many years, most recently at Zoller and King Schools. Enjoy!

And now to add to the list of Summertime spruce-ups from last month - recognition of a job well done.

1. The barrels of flowers at the Riverside Condominium.
2. Painting the Farry home on Front Street - great door color.
3. Beautiful flowers at Lagones on Front Street.
4. The hanging pots of fuscia on some of Ingersoll Avenue homes.
5. Sauer's painting of their home on Washington Avenue.
6. The much needed improvements at 9 N. College Street.
7. Painting of trim on Broom Factory Apartments.
8. Sunflowers at Ritters on Ingersoll Avenue.

Many thanks to Debbie and Joe Boughton of Ingersoll Ave. for all their efforts cleaning up trash and cutting back brush on the riverbank in Riverside Park.

In the home from vacation department are The Sherwoods of Front St. who have returned from a week of sailing off the coast of Camden, Maine. Also, Jim and Betty Lane spent a week in July on the Chesapeake Bay visiting family, following genealogy leads and eating crab cakes and soft crab. They are also proud grandparents! Son Sean and daughter-in-law Kathy have an 8lb. 6oz. boy, Brendan William. Born on September 14th and living in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. And our Spy editor, Michaela French has just returned from three weeks in merry old England, her homeland. Welcome back folks!

A big welcome to the neighborhood to Bob and Janie Hayner, moving to Front St. from the rural Charlton area. Also welcome, welcome to Todd Griffith and Jen Hayner who have made N. College Street their home. Jen is the daughter of Bob and Janie {see above}.

More welcomes, to Peter Minorski, Biology professor at Union College now living on N. College St. and to Joe McGovern, once a photographer for the Village Voice now teaching at Union College and living on Washington Ave.

Phew, it's been one of those months! Thanks to all (and you know who you are) who contributed information this month. Again, we would love to hear from you. Please look elsewhere in this issue on where to send submissions. Until next month ...

Environmental Notes

Over the summer several environmental pieces of news caught my eye or ear --

Heard on WAMC -- the ozone layer is indeed getting less dense. Discussion and information about this was interesting in light of many reports that we had all been hoodwinked concerning the ozone layer -- that it is no problem. Wonder who wants us to believe that?

Sunday Gazette 5/7/95. Recycled trash makes trendy togs. This article reports hundreds of small firms buying cotton from organic food farmers; making buttons from recycled metals and plastics; labels from recycled soda bottles. Sportswear fabric from 50% recycled plastic, 50% from recycled cotton waste. There's more. . . Donella Meadows notes that the media fad for what's "in," means they sometimes support environmental issues, sometimes reject them. More importantly, she asserts that the environment does not rely on media coverage -- it deteriorates without fanfare.

Excerpts from ECOS NEWS

Economics and regulations are good partners. Despite dire predictions in California of regulatory controls, earnings of the six industries with the highest pollution abatement costs grew by 247% -- a study by the Institute for Southern Studies found the states that protect their natural resources best have the strongest economies.

Fabric from recycled soda bottles! Yes, warm fleece sweaters and jackets from 80% recycled plastic and 20% virgin polyester. 26 soda bottles to each!

Did you hear Alaska Governor Wally Hinkle's reasoning for approving an aerial wolf hunt? "You can't allow nature to run wild." Was he serious? (May 1995)

Inroads on forests. Several items are designed to dilute gains made in environmental health -- for example, S 391, the Forest Health Act, allows claims of designated forest lands as "emergency areas," this can be any with 50% or more of the trees dead or dying, with no limit on size. Once designated, its timber can be thinned, burned and live trees harvested. Unlike many plans this one has no provision for public hearings. The article notes that "Just about any forest could qualify." The title sounds good -- until you read the fine print. HR 260, the National Park System Reform Act, has a politically appointed review commission to "identify parks which should be closed, turned over to states or sold to private concerns" (italics added).

Other conservative groups suggest privatizing all potential over to energy industries (italics added). Flooding and wetlands are linked. The Army Corps of Engineers is trying to restore wetlands in an effort to control flooding of the Mississippi River. Even the Netherlands agrees and is aiming to bring back wetlands, especially backwaters of the Rhine River, and is working with Germany, France, and Switzerland to this end. (June 1995)

Schenectady County Legislature announced its first annual RECYCLING AWARDS:

The City of Schenectady was cited for its comprehensive recycling program.

Individuals and groups, towns and children were also cited for individual efforts towards recycling. (July/August)

WATER

The City of Schenectady is planning to upgrade the water system in parts of the Stockade. This will involve installing a trunk line in Riverside Park to connect the existing north-south lines from the five streets leading to the park. In addition the water distribution lines on Ingersoll Avenue and North Street will be replaced entirely due their age and condition. Stockade area advisors Neff Dietrich, Pete Hornby, John Mott and Marty Colangelo met with City Commissioner Milt Mitchell and Gary Male of CT Male this past spring to provide historical information on underground condition in the proposed work site. The project was released for bid in early August. Work will start in the park on September 25 and is expected to be completed by October 20. All street restoration is expected to be completed by December 1, 1995.

ELECTRIC

On June 22, 1995 a public meeting was held at the Schenectady County Historical Society regarding future Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) in the Stockade area. The work is needed to improve electric service reliability. It will involve the excavation of roadways from the NMPC substation on River Street south, then west on Front Street, south on North College and South College Streets to Erie Boulevard and south to the corner of State Street and Erie Boulevard. The Stockade area work is tentatively scheduled to begin in the spring of 1996. Further details in future issues.

Jack Zegger

Proposed Gateway Landing Pier

The Department of the Army sent letters on July 13, 1995, to homeowners on the west side of Washington Avenue requesting comments by August 2, 1995 on a planned floating pier design. A "T"-shaped floating seasonal pier would extend 53 feet perpendicularly (20 degrees NE) from the present structure into the Mohawk River and 48 feet along the shoreline. The landing is located in the Schenectady County town of Rotterdam.

Several Stockade residents including George and Pat Marshall, Meredith Anker and Werner Feibes responded. Some expressed concerns regarding maintenance of the grounds and pier, security, the environment (trash and effects on wildlife) and parking. Schenectady's Riverfront Commission was not aware of the details of the pier design.

Jack Zegger

Sunday, October 22, 1995 • 3 p.m.

Valerie Traficante *Clifton Park*
pianist returns home between concerts
with the *Orquesta Sinfonica Venezolana*
and the *San Diego Symphony*

Symphony No. 31, "Paris"	Mozart
Piano Concerto No. 2	Rachmaninoff
<i>Valerie Traficante, soloist</i>	
Firebird Suite	Stravinsky

Proctor's Theatre • 432 State Street, Schenectady
Box Office (518) 346-6204
Adults \$15/Students \$7
Family plan Students FREE
Sponsored in part by
a grant from MVP Health Plan.




Special Events

Schenectady Civic Players: *A Life in the Theater*
October 13, 14, 15, 18-22 For info call 382-2081

Schenectady Symphony Orchestra at Proctor's Theater
Sunday, October 22 - 3 PM

Opening concert of the season will feature Symphony No. 31, "Paris", Mozart; Piano Concerto No. 2, Rachmaninoff with Valerie Traftante, soloist and Firebird Suite, Stravinski. This Concert is underwritten in part by MVP Health Plan.

CRAFTERS WANTED: A call for crafters to fill space for Craft Sale on Saturday November 11, 1995 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. Table space of 8 feet available with a donation of \$20.00 per table is required. All interested crafters, especially Stockade residents, please contact Marie Eoff at 346-3374 or Stacy Sweeney at 374-7203 on or before November 1.

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, October 20**, for publication in the **November 1995** 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 5.1 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.

Best Wishes To All
Our Neighbors In
The Stockade



UPPER UNION TRAVEL, INC.

Eileen M. Julian, C.T.C

Felicia Haytowitz

Opposite Ben & Jerry's

TEL: (518) 346-7474

FAX: (518) 346-7477

1708 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12309

Telex: 4953392

Quality accommodations
for visiting
executives and
out-of-town guests



The Widow Kendall House Bed & Breakfast

Restored tavern, circa 1790, handsomely furnished with antiques.

Each morning a four course breakfast overlooking the gardens.

Host — attorney and innkeeper, Richard H. Brown, Esq.

370-5511

(Guests receive calls on 370-5972.)

Highlights of Stockade Association Membership Meeting, 9/21/95

Business:

1. Excerpts of Secretary's minutes, May 18, 1995 General Meeting included in the September *Spy*.
2. Financial report from David Marhafer, Treasurer, approved.
3. Walkabout status report by Joe Bernat, Vice President.
4. Jack Zegger, President provided status of three major properties: The former Van Dyck Restaurant (see President's Corner), and the former Boy Scouts Building (see President's Corner). The N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation gave its approval to landscaping and beautification work of the Floyd Ladd property which will be planned by the Heritage Foundation in conjunction with Schenectady 2000. The Association wants to be involved.
5. Updated Water Distribution System (see "Construction Projects").
6. The future status of the Parkhurst Children's Shelter at 210 Union Street will be reviewed with Northeast Parent and Child Services and Mohawk Opportunities in Mental Health.
7. National Trust for Historic Preservation (see President's Corner).
8. The Association has been invited to rejoin Schenectady United Neighborhoods (SUN). Agreement followed discussion: The board shall take over the project of exploring SUN's agenda, mutual goals, and advisability of joining.
9. Membership drive is progressing well; those who have not yet mailed their dues may still do so.
10. Neighborhood Watch volunteers (see article).
11. The membership expressed interest in having a Meet the Candidates Night. The Board will contact party leaders about such a possibility at a Stockade location.

Guest Speaker, **Jim Schmitt**, spoke on the Schenectady Heritage Foundation, its origin, and purpose. Jim chronicled the Foundation's history, beginning in 1972 with a \$10,000 grant from the Stockade Association. The Foundation's primary thrust is providing lead measures (through education, grants, advocacy, preservation awards, and as a "bridge group" for historic district associations) enabling and fostering restoration and/or adaptive use consistent with the Historic District Code. Jim noted successful results of past Foundation projects within the Stockade Historic District.

From Ellen Desmond's minutes

He's still around -- Be Aware

A male Caucasian in his late 20's who goes by the name of "Rob" or "Joe" is still scamming Stockade residents. He asks for emergency money, promising to return it. He then disappears. Don't be his next victim!

THOMAS KILLEEN

YOUR PAINTING AND
RESTORATION SPECIALIST

KILLEEN PAINTING & REMODELING

109 N. COLLEGE ST. 374-9514

Bountiful Ewe



311 ALPLAUS AVENUE, ALPLAUS, NEW YORK 12008

Country gifts for city homes.

Judy Winslow, *Proprietor*
Telephone: (518) 384-1049

Waste Collection Dates

Oct 5	Thursday
Oct 13	Friday
Oct 20	Friday
Oct 27	Friday
Nov 3	Friday

*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, metal cans, clean drink boxes, and juice/milk cartons. These should be placed into a recycling container marked "Container Product."

Separate magazines, newspaper, brown paper (grocery bags), corrugated cardboard, junk mail, catalogs, and telephone books, put in paper bags and place into a recycling container marked "Paper Product."

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

Your Neighborhood Watch Needs You

The Stockade Neighborhood Watch has several new volunteers, men and women, but seeks to recruit more. Will you serve as the "eyes" of the neighborhood in a non-confrontational role by walking or driving through the area with a two-way radio, at your convenience? If you are willing, please call Mike Powell (377-9545). He will be providing a brief training program shortly.

ARTHUR'S

A Public Market
first in 1795

372-3304 • 372-4141

PETE POLACHEK, *Owner*

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) 374-0183



Francesco's Ristorante

Your Neighborhood Eating
and Meeting Place

Featuring:

- 14 Pasta's made over 20 ways
- Veal, Chicken, Steak,
- Seafood Dinners
- Sandwiches and Appetizers

Available for Light Fare
108 Jay Street
Across from City Hall

(518) 372-4333