

February 2025

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historicstockade.org

Vol. 66 No.6

## Luminaries and Tavern Night

AT THE STOCKADE INN - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025, 6PM

### JOIN US IN COMMEMORATING THE 335TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHENECTADY MASSACRE

on February 8th, with a luminary display culminating in a festive **Tavern Night** at the Stockade Inn. The Stockade was home to many pubs and saloons in its early years; travel back to the ambiance of early taverns at this special Stockade Association event.

The **Schenectady Massacre** happened on Feb. 8, 1690, a cold and snowy night. Many houses were burned and 60 residents killed by Frenchmen and Indian allies from Canada. Read a more complete story on the front page of *Spy*, Feb. 2022 (*Spy* archives on-line).



DESTRUCTION OF SCHENECTADY.

The Stockade Association will provide luminaries for those interested in lighting our streets in commemoration of the Massacre (or you may provide your own). To request luminaries please email [membership@historicstockade.org](mailto:membership@historicstockade.org) by February 7th and be sure to include your name and address for delivery. Luminaries should be placed around 5:15pm on February 8th, and then join us at 6pm at the Stockade Inn!



- FREE ADMISSION
- Cash bar (nonalcoholic drinks will be provided to members)
- Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Musicians, stories, period attire and neighbors **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



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#### SAVE THE DATES

- Stockade Association Social Hour** - Mondays, 3pm - Feb. 3, 10, 17, & 24 at Arthur's Market
- Stockade Association Board Meeting** - Mon, Feb 3
- Stockade Association Tavern Night** - Saturday, February 8, 6pm.
- Art Night** - Friday, Feb. 21. See page 4
- Garden Tour meeting** Saturday, Feb. 22. See pg. 2



**Join the Stockade Association on line at: [historicstockade.org](http://historicstockade.org)**

**FEBRUARY WASTE COLLECTION DATES**  
**WED, FEB. 5 & 12; THUR, FEB. 20 & 27**  
**Appliance pick up: Wednesday, Feb. 12**

**HELP WITH ENERGY BILLS:**  
 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)  
 Call (800)342-3009 or go to:  
[otda.ny.gov/programs/apply/#heap](http://otda.ny.gov/programs/apply/#heap)

**March Spy Deadline: FEB. 15**  
**Please email editor:**  
[sylviebriber@gmail.com](mailto:sylviebriber@gmail.com)

### First Reformed Church Heritage Sunday

- Laura Lee

**February 2, 2025. Worship 10am & First Forum 11:15am**



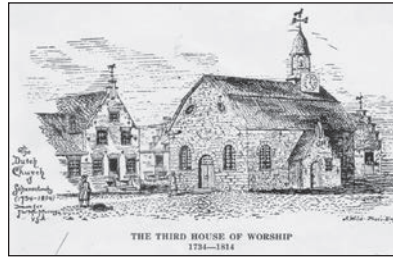
As we enter the period of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, this year's Heritage Sunday carries on the theme of illustrating the role of Schenectady's First Reformed Church in the founding of Schenectady and the United States during the time of the American Revolution.

The sermon during the worship service will be *Condolence Continuing* by Joe

Doolittle. First Forum, incorporating the ongoing research of Carol DeLaMarter about Revolutionary War veterans who were members of the church, will be a PowerPoint presentation created and given by Richard Rose telling of Schenectady and those who committed "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" to the founding of a new nation.

The church building at that time was in the middle of the intersection at the center of the stockade. The imposing structure, built in 1734 of blue sandstone, had an octagonal belfry and clock tower, with a weather-vane topped by the cock of St. Nicholas. A 600-pound silver bell, cast in Amster-

dam, the Netherlands, was sent as a mission to grace the belfry. When the bell rang its message could be heard far into the Mohawk Valley.



The 10am church service livestream and the First Forum zoom link are both posted on the church's homepage: [frcschenectady.church](http://frcschenectady.church)

\*\*\*\*\*

### 60th Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award Ceremony Sunday February 2, 2:30pm

Albany Post 105 of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA will hold this annual award ceremony at the First Reformed Church. The non-denominational award encourages goodwill and cooperation among people, furthering interfaith in action and "unity without uniformity." It honors people whose life and work symbolize the legacy, service and sacrifice, of four World War II chaplains, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Rev. George L. Fox, Rev. Clark V. Poling (who was the minister of First Reformed) and Fr. John P. Washington, who gave their own life jackets to save the lives of soldiers in the Feb. 3, 1943 torpedo sinking of the troop transport S.S. *Dorchester*. This year's award recipient is Melanie Puorto-Conte, for her years of service to local youth.



### Stockade StreetFest Returns Saturday, July 19, 2025

**Colleen Macaulay & Ryan Solghan, Organizers**

What an amazing event the Stockade StreetFest was last year! We had a fantastic turnout of vendors, artists, vintage vehicles, and delicious food and drinks from our favorite neighborhood eateries. The festival was a perfect complement to the Stockade Association's Walkabout house tour, creating a memorable day for all.

This year, we're thrilled to announce that the Stockade StreetFest will partner again with the Stockade Association for the Art & Nature Garden Tour on Saturday, July 19th. The festival will showcase an even greater variety of artisans, crafters, and vendors, and we're expanding the festivities to include Front St. between Lawrence and N. Church St.

Colleen Macaulay is curating an extensive lineup of classic cars, sure to delight enthusiasts of all ages. Plus, we're excited to introduce not one but two new café areas where attendees can relax and enjoy a wide array of food and beverages throughout the day.

Mark your calendars and join us for a day of fun, discovery, and community spirit at the Stockade StreetFest! If you'd like to participate or know someone interested in showcasing their talents, reach out to us at [StockadeStreetFest@gmail.com](mailto:StockadeStreetFest@gmail.com). Whether you're a longtime resident or a visitor, this is an event you won't want to miss.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### Waking from Winter - Victoria Gatta

Upon Spring's doorstep I stand,  
chilled by the bitter winds of Winter.  
I look to the East, my heart warming.  
No worries do I have for the remnants  
of winters past and yet to come. For  
Spring shall, in February be yearning;  
Waking from its slumber with a tender yawn."



### Vive Lafayette! POETRY COMPETITION

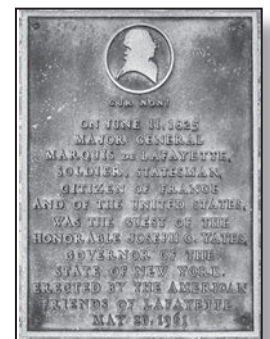
Celebrating Lafayette's Return to Schenectady June 11, 2025. Deadline for submissions is February 28 <https://www.vailsgatepublishing.com/lafayette-poetry-entry>

### EVIDENCE OF OLD SCHENECTADY

- Carol DeLaMarter

Major General Marquis de Lafayette Visits Schenectady, June 11, 1825

You may have stopped to read the text on this marker at 17 Front St. You may remember the important role the French played in the American Revolution. Years later Lafayette was as popular as George Washington for critical roles he had played in helping the US win the American Revolution. Lafayette returned to this country to tour all 26 states and territories that made up the US then. His tour included a stop in Schenectady on June 11, 1825.



To celebrate the 200th anniversary in 2025, Lafayette will return to Schenectady on June 11 to day long events including a tour of the Stockade, dinner at the Glen Sanders with 24 toasts as per the 1825 dinner.

Photo by Gloria Kishton



### Flamingo Watch!

Be on the lookout for these annual Stockade visitors. Flamingoes traditionally flock around Lawrence every Valentine's Day, and just as mysteriously, disappear after only one day!

**Birds of the Stockade** will return next month

## STOCKADE GARDEN TOUR

Planning Begins! - Suzy Unger

The next major fundraiser for the Stockade Association will be the **Art & Nature Garden Tour** scheduled for **SATURDAY, JULY 19**. The tour includes approximately eight gardens matched with art from **Living Resources**. Visitors are so excited to see our hidden gardens, rarely seen by the general public. Please consider including your garden on the tour or serving as a volunteer. Our first planning meeting was January 25. The next meeting will be Feb. 22 at 10am at St. George's Great Hall. For more information or to volunteer, contact Suzy Unger at: [suzanne.unger@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.unger@gmail.com)

## ART NIGHT SCHENECTADY

**FEBRUARY 21 (third Fridays)  
5PM-8:30PM**

Free and Open to the Public  
Music, Art, Creativity, Food!

Our Front Street neighbor, **Craig Petreikis**, has pulled it altogether!

Besides the Stockade venues listed below, there are many more places to enjoy! Catch Stockade neighbors at **The Armory - Doug Chilton** on piano and **Norm Ainslie** on drums! For complete information: [@artnightschenectady](https://www.facebook.com/artnightschenectady) on Facebook and Instagram.

• **Brouwer House**-14 N. Church Street - The artists of the Brouwer House Creative will open their studios on art night. Visit this unique artisan collective featuring Deb Angilletta Fine Art, Sweet Sprig, Thistledown and Clover and Sizz Handmade. Our unique studios and galleries will be open to the public and we will serve tasty refreshments.

• **First Reformed Church** - 18 N. Church Street, Schenectady. "**FRC: Through the Lens**," an exhibit of four photographers' work that features the church: David Giacalone, Connor Brady, M.G. Martell Spagnolo, and Ken Rimany. There will also be a Jazz Trio.

• **Mohawk Valley Art Shoppe** -101 State Street (State Street and N. Church Street)

• **Alchemy Wellness**, 17 S. Church Street. Kayla and Tara Caruso, Featured Artists.

• **Moon and River Cafe** -115 S. Ferry Street. New Artists on display & live music.

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March 21-30, 2025

**A Perfect Ganesh**  
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## WALKWAY EXPLORATORY GROUP

Twelve Stockade neighbors met on January 4 at the home of Jac and Ryan Solghan to discuss the problem of our broken, dangerous sidewalks. There have been several recent, serious injuries caused by tripping on sidewalks in poor repair. Neighbors discussed what we can do to help owners replace or repair their sidewalks. The group decided the best first step would be to survey the neighborhood and document the condition of all sidewalks. Dan O'Neill offered to set up a digital system for collecting data and residents volunteered to survey specific areas.

Contact Jac Solghan [jasolghan@aol.com](mailto:jasolghan@aol.com) or Suzy Unger at [suzanne.unger@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.unger@gmail.com) if you have questions or are interested in joining the effort!



### SNOWSTORMS & CARS!

- \* Move your car before snow flies.
- \* Make arrangements with a friend to move your car.

- \* Union St. is a priority street. Follow posted parking rules!
- \* Leave your phone number on the dashboard so the police can call you and help you avoid a tow.
- \* Share your driveway or extra space for off street parking.
- \* Park for free in city parking garage on Broadway when emergency is declared. Carpool with neighbors.
- \* Park in church or YWCA lots AFTER their lots are plowed. NO overnight parking in 1st Reformed Church lots.
- \* Check TV and radio stations, the City of Schenectady's website [cityofschenectady.com](http://cityofschenectady.com), the Stockade Association website [historicstockade.org](http://historicstockade.org), and the Stockade Google group for the latest snow information.

## 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT COMING!

- Suzy Unger

On January 13, the Schenectady City Council held a public hearing on a proposal to lower the city's default speed limit from 30 to 25 m.p.h. The Stockade Association has long promoted the idea of lower speed limits as a way to make the Stockade safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. A recent traffic study commissioned by the city, recommended lowering the speed limit to 25 m.p.h. throughout the city with only a few exceptions.

Cities around the country including Seattle, New York, Boston and Albany have all lowered their default speed limit in recent years. Data shows that the increased reaction time caused by slower speeds results in fewer and less severe injuries, especially to pedestrians.

Stockaders MaryJo Czarkowski, Rich and Suzy Unger spoke in favor of lower speed limits at the council meeting. Sylvie Briber attended, showing her support for the proposal. Tom Carey of the Upper Union Neighborhood Association and Laurie Bachelder, President of Schenectady Unified Neighborhoods also spoke in favor of the proposal. Several council members and the mayor spoke in favor of the default speed limit which, if approved, would go into effect on March 1. Channel 13 covered the hearing.

### FOR OUR STOCKADE FURRY FRIENDS

Please use only pet-safe ice melt on sidewalks. Magnesium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) is safest. Avoid rock salt or calcium chloride. Keep paws and tummies healthy!



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# Want to Know the History of Your House?

- Sylvie Briber

With these cold, wintry days, it's the perfect time to cozy in at the Schenectady County Historical Society's Grems Doolittle Library to research your historic house! And it is only steps away at 32 Washington Avenue!



Drawing by Werner Feibes

In talking with Rich Brown, our Ferry Street neighbor, he was wondering how long the previous owner of his house had lived there.

Rich lives at what I call the "tipsy house" because the doorway looks a little crooked! And maybe I got that name from Giles Yates van der Bogart, author of "The Walls Have Ears," who wrote some interesting

history on this Widow Kendall House, 10 North Ferry.

This Stockade home has always been special to me. In 1963 I visited this house with my mother, as she knew the owner, Miss Bernice Hodges. Bernice died in 1978 and Rich purchased the house from her estate.

So how long did Bernice live in Rich's house?

At the SCHS library, we turned to the great number of City Directories for our answer. These are like telephone books and the very first one was printed in 1842!!!

We knew that Bernice was living there in 1963 to 1977. Did she live there in 1940?

So we checked the 1940 directory and she was not listed. Was she living there in 1950? Checking that directory, we learned that she was.

Backing up to 1945, she was listed and was still living there in 1943 but not in 1942. So she lived there for 34 years. The directories sometimes list the profession of the person, too, listing Bernice as the head librarian at the Schenectady Public Library.

So our mystery was solved!

We also asked the helpful librarian, Marietta Carr, to see if there was a family folder for Hodges. Yes, and there was an obit telling of Bernice's passing in 1978.

The Grems Doolittle Library has great resources for us to use – street maps from the 1880's with some listing the actual owners of the houses, and family folders with genealogies, obits, newspaper articles and so much more.

SCHS is located at 32 Washington Avenue and the entrance is down the driveway and in the back door.

Hours are Mon. 1-5; Tues.- Fri. 10-5 and Sat. 10-2pm.

Call 518 374-0263 to make an appointment for library research and for more information. Yearly membership is \$35 and gives you limitless research. If not a member, \$8 is charged for each library visit.

Happy Researching!



## WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

Weekly updates on downtown happenings:  
www.downtownschenectady.org

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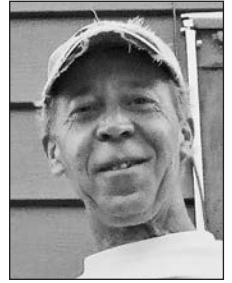
Cremation Burial Lots \$175  
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## St. George's Church Choral Evensong

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 5PM

### Remembering Ken Wenrich - Beth Petta

Who's the happy guy with the ball-cap? That's long-time neighbor, Ken Wenrich. Last year, Ken miraculously recovered from cancer, only to tragically succumb to the effects of his treatments in mid-December. He became a Stockadian in the mid-80's and fell in love with all that the Northeast had to offer the outdoorsman. Some of his favorite spots were the Plotterkill, Moreau State Park, the Adirondacks, Grafton Lakes State Park, the Catskills and numerous rivers and creeks. He loved to hike, camp, kayak, snowshoe, mountain bike...often with friends, sometimes alone, or with his brother Steve, from Pennsylvania.



He was the best kind of friend and neighbor...always available to help with anything...jump your car, fix your car, walk your dog, help with a house or yard project or shovel the snow off and around your car if you were elderly or injured. Many of us will miss him dearly at the pub, on the trail, chatting outside, kayaking on the upper Hudson River and Battenkill. Although he didn't have one, he loved dogs and dogs loved him. It was the same with kids.

Ken was also the best kind of co-worker. He recently retired after years as an Air Traffic Controller at Schenectady County Airport. He wasn't married and didn't have family close by...he worked the holidays so co-workers could spend time with their families, and he took his vacation time around what worked for others. If you didn't know Ken, well, you missed out on someone really special. Rest in Peace, Ken, the world was a better place with you in it!

### Remembering Kevin Gavitt - Suzy Unger

Kevin Gavitt was a well-known figure in the Stockade for many years. Neighbors may recall seeing him riding his bicycle through the neighborhood wearing his signature trench coat and hat. Kevin and his mother moved back to the Stockade in 1966. After his mother passed away in 2016, Kevin continued to live in their home at 157 Front Street. Kevin passed away sometime in December. He was discovered during a wellness check on Christmas Eve.



Kevin was the son of Arthur Stanley Harris and Phyllis Gavitt. He attended Bard College, entering at the age of 16. Neighbor Derrick D'Amico, described him as a "computer genius" who also loved music. Kevin could play the violin, flute, guitar and piano. At one time he served on the board of Cafe Lena and played folk music around the region, including the Moon and River Cafe. Cycling was another passion and Derrick said he had trouble keeping up with Kevin when they went on rides together.

In later years, Kevin kept more to himself and it was hard for neighbors like Derrick to keep in touch with him. Nonetheless, the Stockade mourns Kevin's passing and the circumstances of his death. The Spy extends condolences to his family and friends.

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## Stars of the Stockade - Sylvie Briber Keith Dayer

Do you remember the Freddie Frehofer Show?

Keith and I discovered an amazing coincidence! Our very first visit to Washington Avenue was in the 1950's when we celebrated our birthdays on the Freddie Frehofer Show at the WRGB TV Station located at the State Street end of Washington Avenue!

When at the WRGB studio all those years ago, a light went on for Keith as he watched the man in the booth with headphones and the cameraman with the boom microphone! Little did he know that 30 years later he would be working at the station.

Keith was also the Chief Engineer for the NYS Assembly in the Radio/TV/AV Department. He also has a background in mechanical Engineering and was a Project Engineer for Atmospheric Sciences.

Keith first visited the Stockade in 1981 for the Art Show, returned to watch a river regatta in 2006 with Karen Canton and they decided that the Stockade was where they wanted to live.

In 2008, they bought a home on Front Street in need of much repair. After doing a lot of work and researching its history, dating it to the 1880's and naming it The Juno House, they received a plaque and a Preservation Award. And The Juno House has been on the Walkabout house tour.

Keith has been an invaluable Stockade neighbor, a Stockade Association board member for 8 years and part of the Streetscape Study Committee and Planning for Places workshops. He has also been the project coordinator for 6 lovely benches and trash cans for our Stockade neighborhood.

Because of his background, Keith contributed critical work to our oral history project, "Stockade Voices," by salvaging the hard drive from the videographer's computer, making it possible to preserve the original video footage. He is excited about using his talents to film the next round of interviews with neighbors. This is a natural for Keith as his father would tape record many family stories, including Keith's great grandmother, who was featured in Norman Rockwell's painting, "Freedom of Worship."

Keith also has a keen interest in astronomy. When he was 16 in 1970, and working on making his own telescope, he visited Stellafane in Springfield, Vermont, now a mecca for amateur astronomers for 100 years, where Keith is active in its preservation!

*Tidings* Congratulations to **Lily Alvarez** and **Glenn Houston** on the birth of their third grandchild, **Alden Alexander Houston**.

Congratulations to **Hanna** and **Dan O'Neill** on the birth of their daughter, **Skye Brookes**.

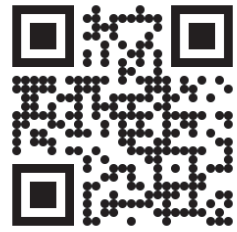
Condolences to the families and friends of **Ken Wenrich** and of **Kevin Gavitt**. See page 6 for remembrances of these Stockade neighbors.

Have important mentions about our Stockade neighbors? Please email [sylviebriber@gmail.com](mailto:sylviebriber@gmail.com) so we can include it in our Tidings.

### Feeding the Soul

**First Reformed Church** invites neighbors in a community effort addressing food insecurity. A free **Little Food Pantry** is outside 8 N. Church St. for those who need help. Please add food when you have plenty. Everyone can join the weekly Wednesday **Community lunch**, 12-1pm. Stop by Covenant Hall; dine in or to go. Donations happily accepted.

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### SUNDAYS

10:30 AM & 6:00 PM

In person and streaming on YouTube  
WMHH 96.7 FM at 11:00 AM

### WEDNESDAYS

7:00 PM Prayer Meeting

### CONTACT US

518.374.4546 | [fpcschedy.org](http://fpcschedy.org)

215 Union Street

[fpcofficeschdy@gmail.com](mailto:fpcofficeschdy@gmail.com)

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**The Stockade Spy**

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The Stockade Spy was founded in 1961 by James D.J. Schmitt. Designed by Werner L. Feibes. First Editor: Barrie Covert.

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**Didn't Get a Spy?** Pick up a copy at Arthur's Market, Front & N. Ferry, and Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave. Or call Editor, Sylvie Briber, at 518-377-0469, and she will bring you a copy. Current and back issues of the Spy can be found on the Stockade Association website: **historicstockade.org**. Click on "The Stockade Spy Archives."

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Police Emergency 911  
 Non-emergency (518) 630-0911  
 Code enforcement (518) 382-5050  
 Animal control voicemail (518) 382-5200, ext. 5655  
 City website: **cityofscheneectady.com**




**FEBRUARY WASTE COLLECTION DATES**

**WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 5 & 12; THURSDAYS, FEB. 20 & 27**  
**APPLIANCE PICK UP: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12**

**No building materials or electronics will be accepted!**

**Single Stream Recycling:** Put all recyclable material into one container for collection. Pick up starts 6:15am. Put waste to curb the day before, after 2pm. Please remove emptied containers promptly. Questions? visit: **www.cityofscheneectady.com**, click on "services," or call the hotline at (518) 382-5144.

Across from City Hall & KBJ Central Library



105 Clinton St  
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**The Whitney Book Corner**  
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 whitneybookcorner.org

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**See Click Fix**

**Have an issue of concern or want to report a code violation?**

Take action with "See Click Fix," Schenectady's new on-line reporting software. The following procedure takes you step by step.

1. Go to the City of Schenectady website: [cityofscheneectady.com](http://cityofscheneectady.com).
2. On the home page, click on the blue circle, "Report a Concern."
3. On the SeeClickFix page, you can read about how it works and either use the on-line form or download the app to your cell phone.
4. Scroll down to see the map. In the upper right corner, click on the three dots to open a menu of options. Here's where you can download the app, create an account, or sign in to make a report.
5. To create your account, click on "Sign up." Then, click on the "Sign in with Community, SeeClickFix" button. Next, fill in the form to create your account and password.
6. After you have an account, you can click on the "New Request" button at the bottom of the map.
7. Fill in the address of the property or location you want to report, then confirm it. Next, search for the category for your report; click on it and the name will appear at the top of the page. Then, you can add a photo (from your computer) by clicking on the "Add an Image" camera icon (or click on "no photo.").
8. After your photo is downloaded, click on the "Next step" button at the bottom of the page, then add a description, an apartment number (if applicable), and a phone number where the specific city department can contact you if they need more information (not displayed publicly).
9. Click the "Confirm Details" button at the bottom of the page.
10. "Submit as yourself" to allow the receiving department to see your contact information. To report anonymously, click on the "hide your identity" circle. Then, click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page.
11. Your request is assigned a number. See a confirmation of your details and another opportunity to download the app.
12. You'll receive an email from the city on the status of your request.

**Google Group for Stockade Neighbors**

Join the Stockade Google group! Go to <https://groups.google.com/g/historic-stockade>; click "ask to join," or email administrator Mary Zawacki at: **zawacki.mm@gmail.com**.

**PLANNING ON CHANGES TO A HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY?**

Changes to the exterior of property viewable from a public rights-of-way require prior approval from the Historic Resources Commission (HRC). Some changes may only require staff approval. Call City Hall to determine the appropriate level of review for your project. Other permits may be required. Applications available online at: [cityofscheneectady.com/203/Historic-District-Commission](http://cityofscheneectady.com/203/Historic-District-Commission). Questions? Call Sergy Dossous at (518) 382-5147, ext.5406 or email: **smdossous@scheneectadyny.gov**.

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