

THE STOCKADE ★ SPY



December 2025 Published by The Stockade Association historicstockade.org Vol. 67 No.4



Annual Stockade TREE LIGHTING Ceremony

Sunday, December 7, 2025
5:15pm – Gather at Lawrence
Afterglow at Arthur's Market



Our tree has arrived and Santa is getting ready to greet neighbors at the Stockade's Annual Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 7, at 5:30pm. Gather at 5:15pm in the circle at Lawrence, intersection of North Ferry, Front and Green Streets.

**All are invited to join in the singing
of carols and the tree lighting!**

We all look forward to the joyous look on the faces of our neighborhood children as they magically light our holiday tree. Thanks go to The Saratoga Tree Nursery, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. A big THANK YOU to Schenectady Heritage Foundation for donating this year's tree. A big shout out to the City of Schenectady Parks Department and SNAP (Sch'dy Neighborhood Assistance Program) for gathering, raising and assisting with the lighting of our tree.

Join in The Afterglow!

Join us at Arthur's Market after the tree lighting to continue the holiday celebration with friends, refreshments, and Brue Holden performing favorites at the piano. Arthur's will host us with extended hours, and their full menu, including beer and wine, will be available for purchase. The Stockade Association will provide complimentary treats and cider. Everyone is welcome!

Dress warmly and bring your best singing voice!



- Stockade Holiday Happiness!
- The Christmas Tree Farm, see page 4. December 5 - 14. Civic Players
- Holiday Ramble, see page 2 Sunday, December 7, noon - 5pm
- Stockade Tree Lighting Sunday, December 7 at 5:30pm
- Stockade Association Social Hour Mondays in December, 3 - 4pm Arthur's Market
- Stockade Church Services December 24 & 25, see page 3
- Schenectady County Historical Society Events schenectadyhistorical.org or call (518) 374-0263
- Festival of Trees December 6 - 27, 10am-4:30pm
- Drink the Seasons Friday, December 12, 6 - 8pm
- A Very Mabee Christmas Saturday, December 13, 11 - 2pm
- Holiday Stockade Stroll December 17 - 20, 5:30pm
- Chocolate Haus: Holiday Edition Fri, Dec. 19, 6pm & Dec. 20, 5pm
- Hanukkah begins Sunday, Dec. 14
- Kwanzaa begins Friday, Dec. 26

STOCKADE SNOW

When snow is predicted, plan ahead to avoid a ticket and a tow! Find information at the City of Schenectady website: cityofschenectady.com. Search for Snow Emergency. Parking restrictions apply for Union Street, a priority street. See more on pg. 3.



**DECEMBER WASTE COLLECTION DATES
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3, 10, 17, & 24. Appliance pick up: Wed, Dec. 17.**

**January Spy Deadline:
DECEMBER 15. Please email
editor: sylviebriber@gmail.com**

President's Message - Katherine Stephens

These past few weeks and the next few coming up remind me of this lovely excerpt from Charles Reznikoff's poem *Meditations on the Fall and Winter Holidays*:

Reason upon reason to be thankful:
 for the fruit of the earth,
 for the fruit of the tree,
 for the light of the fire,
 and to have come to this season.

*Get in the spirit
 by decorating your house
 with candles in your
 windows, wreaths on
 your doors, and garlands
 draping your railings!*

I am thankful for these reasons and so many more. Some of those reasons are the community we have here in the Stockade. I hope to see you at some of the amazing winter events happening this month. Come and enjoy the Stockade tree lighting on Sunday, December 7 at 5:30pm in the circle opposite Arthur's. Learn more on the first page of this issue of the Spy. Earlier the same day from 12-5, please participate in the Holiday Ramble by visiting neighborhood vendors and shops. Don't forget to visit the Historical Society for the Festival of Trees from Dec 6 - Dec 27. It's such a joy having great events and things to do within our small boundaries. I hope to see you around!



**ART NIGHT
 SCHENECTADY**

**DECEMBER 19 (third Fridays)
 4PM - 8:30PM**

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

Complete information & map: @artnightschenectady on Facebook & Instagram. artnightschenectady.com

Come on down to Schenectady to see the Museum of Prints and Printmaking, Catherine Minnery Studios, Bear and Bird Gallery, NY Folklore, and More!!!

Mí na Nollag - Victoria Gatta

Sunlight, now kept aflame by candlelight;
 the world around us shrouded in white,
 lying in repose.

With each threshold of seasons, I carefully step.
 With careful feet, I tread - the sounds of sleigh bells
 and hoofbeats overhead.

Keep the green of summer close to home,
 the warmth of the sun in your fire.
 Let An Geimhreadh Mór - the great midwinter -
 remain for now.

A season of hope, this December brings -
 of renewal, and rebirth promised with spring.
 He may yet stop before your door.

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

Mí na Nollag (Mee nuh Null-ug) is the Irish name for December, "the month of Christmas." Long before Christian influences, this season marked the rebirth of the sun at the winter solstice - when light returns after its longest night.

Candles in windows welcomed travelers and ancestral spirits. Evergreens kept by the hearth reminded all that life endures through dark months. The Irish call this time An Geimhreadh Mór (ahn yow-ruh more) - "the great midwinter," a season of rest, resilience, and hope. As Irish immigrants crossed the ocean, these customs evolved into familiar American traditions: candlelit windows, holly on the door-step, and the shared belief that December promises spring's return.

STOCKADE SNOW - Parking in the Stockade is often a challenge in nice weather, but when it snows, be sure to pack a shovel and your patience if you park on the street. Be aware of restrictions in all the private lots in the neighborhood before moving in. A full article will be posted in the January Spy.

**Thursday Musical Club presents
 "Christmas Joy"**

First Reformed Church, Saturday, December 6, 2pm

A concert of traditional and popular seasonal selections, directed by **Julie Panke** and accompanied by **Ryan Devine**. **Benjamin Bixler**, scholarship recipient from Niskayuna High School will also perform. Tickets: \$15; children under 12 free.



SAVE THE DATES

- Stockade Association Social Hour** - Mondays at 3pm, 12/1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 at Arthur's Market.
- The Christmas Tree Farm** - December 5 - 14. Schenectady Civic Players. See article pg. 4.
- Festival of Trees** - December 6 - 27, 10am - 4:30pm. Sch'dy County Historical Society
- Stockade Tree Lighting** - Sunday, December 7 at 5:30pm
- Holiday Ramble** - Sunday, December 7, noon - 5pm. Sch'dy County Historical Society
- Holiday Stockade Stroll** - December 17 - 20, 5:30pm. Sch'dy County Historical Society

**Holiday Ramble & Tree Lighting
 in the Stockade - Sunday, December 7 12-5pm**



Mark your calendars for a day of festive fun in the Stockade! On Sunday, December 7 from 12-5 PM, our historic neighborhood will come alive with the Holiday Ramble - featuring Stockade area shopping, raffles, treats, and holiday cheer at participating businesses. Then, gather at Lawrence Circle (North Ferry, Front, and Green Streets) at 5:30pm for the annual Stockade Tree Lighting, complete with carol singing and a few delightful surprises!

It's the perfect way to celebrate the season, support local shops, and share in the holiday magic that makes the Stockade so special. - Leah LaFera

**Christmas Church Services
 in the Stockade**



First Reformed Church

Saturday, December 20 at 6 pm and 7pm
 The wait is over - the **Living Nativity** is back and better than ever! Come for the story of Christ's birth, stay for hot cocoa and fellowship.
Wednesday December 24, Christmas Eve Services:
 5-6pm Family service with shepherds and angels
 8:30 pm Candlelight Concert with string ensemble and choir
 9pm Candlelight worship service with carols
 11pm - midnight Jazz Vespers
frcschenectady.church (518) 377-2201 See ad pg 7

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Services:
 4pm - Christmas Eve Family Mass
 10pm - Christmas Eve Mass. 9:30pm - Carol Concert.
Thursday, December 25
 11am - Sung Mass for Christmas Day
stgeorgesschenectady.org (518)374-3163 See ad pg 6

First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00pm
 Please Join Us - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
fpschdy.org (518) 374-4546 See ad page 7

STOCKADE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

Join on line at: historicstockade.org

Regular Membership: Upon the payment of dues, voting membership is available to any individual owning property, renting, or owning a business entity within the Stockade Historic District

Affiliate Membership: Upon the payment of dues, any individual or organization not eligible for regular membership is eligible to become a non-voting affiliate member designated as a "Friend of The Stockade."

Dues: Individual: \$20; Household: \$25; Business owner: \$25; Affiliate: \$15.

- Individual
- Household
- Affiliate
- Non-resident Stockade property owner(s)
- One designated representative of a Stockade business entity

- Check one:**
- Renter
 - Homeowner
- Check one:**
- New Member
 - Renewing Member

Anyone living in the Stockade is eligible for a regular membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email(s) _____

Date _____

**NOW OFFERING
 AUTOMATED
 ANNUAL RENEWALS!**

The *Stockade Spy* is distributed free to the neighborhood monthly and mailed to non-resident members and "Friends." Please make checks payable to: The Stockade Association
 Mail to: Stockade Association Treasurer, 32 Washington Ave., Suite 100, Schenectady, NY 12305

Sweet Sprig

**We are moving
 to 166 Jay St in January!**

All-natural soaps, candles, skincare, dried flowers + gift boxes

14 N Church St

Last holiday season at this location.
 Wed-Fri 12-5
 Sat-Sun 11-4

MOHAWK VALLEY ART SHOPPE
 ART SUPPLIES & MATERIALS

- High Quality Art Materials
- Gallery Featuring Local Artwork
- Art Classes & Events

Treat your soul. Make some art.

+518-320-4872
 mohawkvalleyart@gmail.com

www.mohawkvalleyart.com
 101 State st. Suite 101
 Schenectady, NY 12305

Tuesday-Saturday 11-6 Sunday 12-5

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

SCHENECTADY TRADING CO.
 LOCALLY SOURCED

STC
 GROCERIES • GIFTS • HOME DECOR

EST. 2019

10 North Center St.
 Schenectady, NY

@schenectadytradingco

518.307.1332

**TRULY YOURS
 CUSTOM FRAMING, INC.**

(518) 280-2233
 714 Saratoga Road, Burnt Hills, NY 12027
trulyyourscustomframing.com
info@trulyyourscustomframing.com

Mention the *Stockade Spy* for \$15 off your first order!

Slick's 1804 Tavern

FAMOUS FOR SANDWICHES SINCE 1974

518-982-0020

127 SOUTH FERRY STREET, SCHENECTADY, NY 12305

Opens Tuesday - Saturday at 11:30am
Tuesday & Wednesday till 8pm, Thursday - Saturday till 9pm
Kitchen closes 1 hour before closing time



Artur Wachala General Construction

Painting Roofing
Structural Work

Home Improvements
30 Years Experience
Insured

awachala491@gmail.com

518-491-7906



SCHENECTADY CIVIC PLAYHOUSE

Our 2025-2026 Season

The Girl on the Train

By Paula Hawkins
Adapted by Rachel Wagstaff & Duncan Abel
October 17-26

The Christmas Tree Farm

By Adam Szymkowitz
December 5-14

In the Next Room or the vibrator play

By Sarah Ruhl
January 30-February 8

The Seafarer

By Conor McPherson
March 20-29

Steel Magnolias

By Robert Harling
May 8-17

www.civicplayers.org ■ 12 S Church St. Schenectady, NY ■ (518) 382-2081



Lite Fare with a Gourmet Flair

Breakfast * Lunch * Full Bar

Mon-Fri 8am-6pm

Open before all Live

Thursday till 9:00 pm

Proctor's Shows

Sat 10-5

Sunday Brunch 9 am-2pm

151 Jay Street Schenectady, NY
(518) 382-9277



NOTT STREET OFFICE
2215 Nott Street
Niskayuna, NY 12309
518-382-2663

Shipping you
Around the block...
Around the World...

Union Street Office

175 Union Street
Schenectady, NY 12309
518-280-9626

Available in 2 convenient Locations



Copying - Faxing - Scanning
Banner & Poster Printing
Brochures & Business Cards
Stamps & Magnets
Typing & Design work
Expert Packing & Shipping



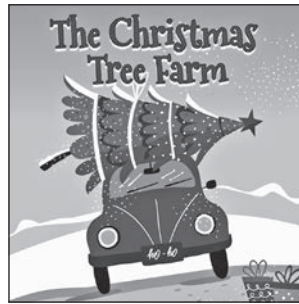
The Christmas Tree Farm Schenectady Civic Players December 5-14

Enjoy seeing two of our Stockade neighbors, **Katherine Stephens** and **Drew Pearson**, in this fun production right in our very own neighborhood at 12 S. Church Street at The Schenectady Civic Playhouse!

Schenectady Civic Players continues its 98th season December 5-14, 2025, with **The Christmas Tree Farm**, a heartwarming play by Adam Szymkowitz, directed by Cristine Loffredo and Mark Stephens.

Told through a series of vignettes, The Christmas Tree Farm captures the romance, humor, and unexpected moments that unfold at a bustling Christmas tree farm. Stories include a breakup, a breakdown, a meet-cute, high school sweethearts, and four Santas. Filled with laughter, love, and the magic of the season, this touching production celebrates connection, second chances, and the surprising moments that fill us with the holiday spirit.

Featured in the performance are Claudia Bertasso, Kerry Kazmierowicztrimm, Marty O'Connor, Drew Pearson, and Katherine Stephens. Performance dates are Friday-Sunday (December 5-7) and Wednesday-Sunday (December 10-14). Friday and Saturday curtains are at 8:00 PM, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30pm, and Sunday matinees at 2:30pm. All tickets are \$25. Tickets are available online through the SCP website, by phone, or at the door for any performance. Call 518-382-2081 or visit civicplayers.org for more information.



Claudia Bertasso & Drew Pearson

Photo by Tom Robinson

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 Graves at: zawacki.mm@gmail.com.

Holiday Mailing Information

- Colleen Macaulay

USPS, 29 Jay Street
M - F, 8:30am - 5pm; Sat. 9am - 12noon
Postal Supervisor 518-388-3100, Ext. 23
Postal Inspector 1-877-876-2455

USPS.com

You can call and ask to have your package held. Other mail will be delivered as usual. Always request a signature

UPS

1-800-742-5877

"UPS My Choice" - get home delivery on your schedule. Always ask for a signature.

UPS.com

FedEx

Request to hold at a FedEx location.

Will obtain signature for no additional charge.

Five (5) different categories of delivery are offered, "Non-specified" to "Adult Signature Requested."

fedex.com



Celebrating 200 years of the Erie Canal Celebrating the Planting of the White Pine Tree of Peace

- Elizabeth Walsh



Photo by Elizabeth Walsh

Thank you to everyone who braved the cold and rain on November 9th to help plant the **White Pine Tree of Peace** in Riverside Park, near the isles named for the five original nations of the **Haudenosaunee Confederacy**.

The symbolic sapling was given as a gift to the City and County of Schenectady on October 14 by the crew of the "Seneca Chief" boat on its voyage from Buffalo to NYC to commemorate the 200 year anniversary of the completion of the Erie Canal, while also honoring the Haudenosaunee Confederacy's legacy of democratic governance and sustainable development.

Over 70 community members gathered for a moving ceremony led by **Kawenniiosta Jock** of the Mohawk Nation and **John Skenadore** of the Oneida Nation of Skywoman's Forever Farm. They shared the enduring teachings of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, including the Words Before All Else, the Great Law of Peace, and the story of the Great Tree of Peace—under whose roots the original five nations symbolically buried their weapons. Skenadore reminded us that "our words have velocity," and invited us to reflect on the stories and beliefs we each carry that hinder peace. Participants were then welcomed to release those burdens into the soil as the young tree was planted.

Many hands helped make the planting possible—from preparing the site and caring for the tree beforehand to sharing sacred herbs, seeds, and post-ceremony hospitality at the Stockade Inn. We are grateful for everyone who contributed their time, skills, and goodwill to this meaningful moment of community connection. We are especially grateful to community leaders from **ReTree Schenectady**, **Electric City Community Grocery**, **Inner Bliss Yoga & Wellness**, and the **Stockade Neighborhood Association** for their efforts to create this special community event.

A note from the Beautification Committee: Alongside the White Pine, four new maple trees have recently been planted to support shade, beauty, and long-term ecological health. See the article on page 6.

Food for the Soul

First Reformed Church invites neighbors in a community effort addressing food insecurity. Everyone can enjoy the weekly Wednesday community lunch, 12-1pm. Great time to meet others and enjoy a meal. Stop by Covenant Hall, dine in or to go. Donations happily accepted. A free Little Food Pantry is outside 8 N. Church

Save the Date!
Stockade Walkabout & StreetFest 2026
Will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2026
Look for more information in the January Spy!

CHRIS LAFLAMME

REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON • REALTOR®



Helping you
buy, own or
sell your
HISTORIC
STOCKADE
property

Stockade Apartment Owner
Rentals occasionally available
bleugroup.com

KWPLATFORM

Each Office is Independently
Owned and Operated

M: 518.461.3445

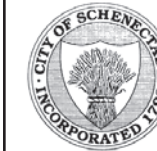
O: 518.724.5800

chris.laflamme@kw.com

chris-laflamme.kw.com

935 New Loudon Road

Latham, NY 12110



City of Schenectady

Doreen Ditoro

City Council Member

City Hall, 105 Jay Street, room 107
Schenectady, NY 12305

(518) 528-5870

dditoro@schenectadyny.gov

McGregor Auto Service

Full Service Repair Shop *NYSI *Foreign & Domestic

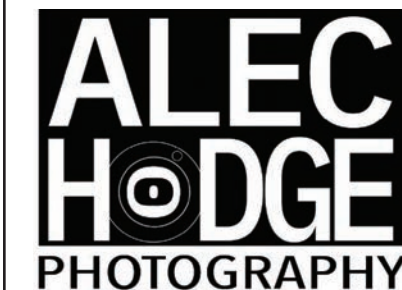
1015 Erie Blvd.
Schenectady, NY 12305

Open Mon - Fri 8:00AM to 5:30PM

www.mcgregorauto.com

Vinnie N.
Owner

Call: 1-518-346-1151
Fax: 1-518-372-9937



Alec Hodge
Photographer

Website/Portfolio: alechodge.com

Email: photography@alechodge.com

Instagram: [@alechodgephotography](https://www.instagram.com/alechodgephotography)

BOOK YOUR CUSTOM
SESSION NOW!

Weddings • Events
Portraits • Product/Food
Commercial • Documentary
& More

AS SEEN IN GALLERIES,
AS REMEMBERED AND TRUSTED BY CLIENTS



ARTHUR'S
1795

YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD
CAFE & MARKET

OPEN EVERYDAY
7AM - 5:30PM

35 NORTH FERRY STREET
IN THE STOCKADE

WWW.ARTHURSI795.COM

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Stockade Association Board of Directors
old.dorp@historicstockade.org

President

Katherine Stephens
old.dorp@historicstockade.org
Term expires 5/2027

Vice President

Dan O'Neill
Term expires 5/2026

Treasurer

Zakhar Berkovich
Term expires 5/2027

Secretary

Suzanne Unger
Term expires 5/2027



Directors

Justin Brown
Term expires 5/2026

Keith Dayer
Term expires 5/2026

Susannah Hand
Term expires 5/2026

Zakhar Berkovich
Term expires 5/2027

Colleen Macaulay
Term expires 5/2027

Christopher Marney
Term expires 5/2027



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: cityofschenectady.com

DECEMBER WASTE COLLECTION DATES
WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 3, 10, 17, & 24
BULK ITEMS PICK UP: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

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.cityofschenectady.com, click on "services," or call the hotline at (518) 382-5144.

Didn't Get a Spy? Pick up a copy at Arthur's Market at Front & N. Ferry, Schenectady County Historical Society at 32 Washington Ave., The Stockade Inn, corner of Union and N. Church, First Reformed Church, enter on N. Church St., Slick's Tavern, corner S. Ferry & Liberty, or call Sylvie Briber at 518-377-0469 or text at 518-727-3269. Current and back issues of the Spy can be found on the Stockade Association website: historicstockade.org. Click on "The Spy Archive."




TOP TIER HAIR SALON
ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY

ELEVATED BEAUTY EXPERIENCE
ECO-CONSCIOUS GENDER-AFFIRMING
RELATIONSHIP-DRIVEN


518-930-1201
WWW.BEXSALON.COM

234 UNION ST.
SCHENECTADY NY 12305



ANGELO SANTABARBARA, PE
ASSEMBLYMAN - 11TH DISTRICT
Montgomery and Schenectady Counties
433 State Street, Center City
Schenectady, NY 12305
518-382-2941 - FAX: 518-382-5731
29 E. Main Street, Room 100
Amsterdam, NY 12010
518-843-0227 - FAX: 518-843-0049
Email: santabarbaraa@nyassembly.gov

NEW YORK STATE
ASSEMBLY



Community Archaeology Newsletter and Spring Courses - Louise Basa

As we recently ended Daylight-Saving time, the just released **CAP Winter Newsletter** also unofficially marks the arrival of winter and on the bright side, the holiday season. To receive the newsletter in digital format, email Louise Basa at basala@sunysccc.edu. The next edition is scheduled for the Spring semester starting in January 2026.

The **CAP Spring courses** listed below will be available for registration soon at <https://sunysccc.edu/About-Us/Workforce-Development-and-Community-Education/Community-Archaeology.html>

ONLINE: Native American (March 19 - April 23) spanning the timeline from 13,000 years ago and on to early contact with Europeans


Lab Practices (March 4 - April 29) with hands-on activities both during class time and in one in-person session.

Cultural Resource Management (February 5 - Marh 12) to become familiar with the largest employer for archaeologists at home and abroad.

IN-PERSON: Archaeology Research (January 1 - May 31) engage in archaeological research and artifact study.

The Stockade Spy

Published monthly, Sept.-May. Submissions due the 15th of previous month. Yearly and by-the-month advertising available. Contact Bob Lemmerman at: robert1990@aol.com. The Stockade Spy was founded in 1961 by James D.J. Schmitt. Designed by Werner L. Feibes. First Editor: Barrie Covert. **Editor:** Sylvie Briber, 23 Washington Avenue Phone: (518) 377-0469 Email: sylviebriber@gmail.com **Graphic Design:** Gloria Kishton Graphics **Ads and Finance:** Bob Lemmerman **Staff:** Carol DeLaMarter, Victoria Gatta, Gloria Kishton, Bob Lemmerman, Jamie Taft, Suzanne Unger. **Printed by** Nott Street Office



Inner Bliss
Yoga & Wellness

Experience the difference yoga makes!
Intro Offer
21 days for \$41

21 consecutive days of unlimited yoga - Come as often as you like to sample a variety of classes and styles of teaching.
innerblissny.com 858 218 7626 Inside Stockade Inn 2nd Floor



Museum & Library
32 Washington Ave

Brouwer House Creative
14 N Church St

Mabee Farm Historic Site
Rotterdam Junction

SCHENECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

schenectadyhistorical.org
Events | Exhibits | Research