

March 2026

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historicstockade.org

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STOCKADE LOVE!

On Valentine's Day, Stockade neighbors awakened to a surprise at 16 South Church Street, a long-vacant 19th century house: the second Stockade **Heart Bombing!** Originally started by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, **Heart Bombing** is a strategy to focus attention on endangered historic properties loved by their communities.

A group of concerned residents, frustrated both by the owner's failure to improve the property and by the City of Schenectady's lack of code enforcement, decided to show 16 South Church Street some love! Hearts (some broken!) with messages were posted on the house to draw attention to its poor condition.

The City of Schenectady Codes Department cited the property on February 19. This is a first step in holding the property owner accountable for bringing the building into compliance with city building and historic district codes. **Stayed tuned!** - Gloria Kishton



Photos by Gloria Kishton



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Remember!
the speed
limit in the
Stockade
is now

SPEED
LIMIT
25

**MARCH
WASTE COLLECTION
TUESDAYS MARCH
3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
Bulk items pick up:
Tuesday, March 17**

WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

Sign up for a weekly update on downtown art, entertainment and business:

**downtown
schenectady.org**

**April Spy Deadline:
MARCH 15
Please email Editor:
sylviebriber@gmail.com**



DONATE TO... or Set Aside for the Stockade Association Sidewalk Sale on June 6

- Sylvie Briber

To evaluate your donation for tax purposes, check the Goodwill website at goodwill.org. Our Spy team put their heads together and came up with this list:

Habitat for Humanity ReStore: New and used merchandise: Lighting (all types), doors, kitchen cabinets, windows, good used furniture, office furniture, hardware, some building materials. (No bedding). 115 N. Broadway, www.habitat.org. 518-395-3412

City Mission: Red Box outside for items: clothing, shoes, home furnishings, housewares, appliances. Drop off at their Route 50 Store. M-F 8am-4pm. 425 Hamilton St. 518-346-2275 (clothing & shoes only). www.citymission.com.

Historic Albany Foundation Warehouse: 89 Lexington Avenue, Albany, 518-465-2987. warehouse@historic-albany.org, Wed. & Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-4. Donate architectural things – historic doors, window hardware, shutters, glass, toilets, faucets, tiles, etc.

continued on page 2



Glorious March! With winter just about over and the sun getting up earlier, we are starting to feel spring in our hearts!

And now we may turn our attention to cleaning out that garage, the attic, that drawer or closet! And what to do with all that stuff we no longer want or need? We can donate it to different organizations and/or set it aside in boxes to sell at our Stockade Sidewalk Sale on Saturday, June 6.

As always, check the organization's website or call ahead for specific details on donations.

President's Message - Katherine Stephens

This month's neighborhood meeting is a doozy! We'll have a few **County Legislators** joining us to present some updates about programs and initiatives that are happening across the county and city. Please join us, and Stockade resident County Legislator **Omar McGill**, to learn more about these county-wide initiatives.

You can make your voice heard about any number of county-managed assets or programs such as the library system, Medicare and Medicaid, the new aqua center that will be built only a few blocks from the neighborhood, the new exit proposed for 890, and any other concerns you may have.

As the Spring Thaw is upon us, it's a good time to start thinking about ways you can help get the neighborhood ready! We'll have an **Earth Day** cleanup on April 18 and a park beautification day called **Weed and Wine** on May 16 at 2pm. More info coming up on the website!

From the Fairy Mounds

- Victoria Gatta

Spring shall be seen from the fairy mounds,
where mist creeps soft upon the hilltop.
The brownwood holds its breath -
a prayer not yet utter'd, only warm'd in the wind.

Beneath, the life of men keeps strident; our eyes are cast down,
our hearts made swift with needless haste.

Yet the hills keep counsel: deer-trails drawn through snow,
and the wren's small rustle hid within the hedgerow.

So turns the season, in a stillness held by days;
and, unperceiv'd, the light grows kind.

The sun in patient majesty returns,
and with a measured hand dispenses warmth -
till branch and threshold both confess
what change hath come.

DONATE TO... continued from front cover

Salvation Army stores: Rte 50, Rte 5, Rte 7. Clothing, household goods, appliances.

Hazardous Waste, Electronics, sharps & lots of other stuff: recycling@schenectadycounty.com or call (518) 388-4775 to be added to the list for future hazardous waste disposal events.

Ruth's Place: clothing, house goods, bedding. 1910 Broadway; 518-631-1121.

Bethel Thrift Store: 1400 Altamont Ave. 518-631-9073.

Books: Donate or exchange at the Stockade's four Little Libraries or other Little Libraries throughout the city or donate at Karen B. Johnson Library for Friends of the Library book sales.

Extra good paint: local theater companies may take. To recycle extra paint, go to: paintcare.org.

Prescriptions/drugs: Dispose of unwanted prescription and over the counter drugs at any time at many pharmacies, including CVS and Walgreen's. To dispose of controlled substances check the Drug Enforcement Administration website at: https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

Things of my Very Own: Children's needs. 249 Green St. Call ahead 518-630-5143. thingsofmyveryown.org

Waste Disposal: Please consult the City website if you are unsure of the collection process. TVs and building materials are just two examples of items not collected.

Elfun Computer Rehab: will take laptops, PCs and phones. 518-385-9606 or go to <https://computerrehab.org>.



Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 7pm

The Stockade Inn

Corner of Union and Church Streets

All Stockade neighbors are welcome to attend – renters and homeowners all!

The March neighborhood meeting will be a visit from the **County Legislators** with a presentation and a Q&A. There will be the usual neighborhood updates as well with information about Spring cleanup events.

Still time to join the Stockade Association on line at: historicstockade.org



Lenten Church Services

First Reformed Church

Sundays, 10am worship with music & Scriptures.

April 2, 7pm. Maundy Thursday service.

April 3, 12pm, Good Friday. Tenebrae service.

St. George's Episcopal Church

Sundays, 10am Solemn High Mass

Daily: 8:30am morning prayer; 5:30pm evening prayer.

Low masses: Mon, Tues, Wed, Sat at 9am. Thurs at 6pm (9am on 2/26 & 3/12). Fri 12pm.

Fridays, 6:30pm: Soup & Stations. Stations of the Cross preceded by soup & salad supper.

Sun, Mar. 8, after mass: Lenten Forum/Tea

Sunday, March 15: Choral Evensong. Check

church website a week ahead for time and place.

ART NIGHT SCHENECTADY

**MARCH 20 (third Fridays)
4PM - 8:30PM**

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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!!!

SNOW...NOT OVER YET!

* 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 lots AFTER their lots are plowed. NO overnight parking in 1st Reformed Church lots. No parking at any time at St. George's lot.

* Check TV and radio stations, the City of Schenectady's website cityofscheneectady.com, the Stockade Association website historicstockade.org, and the Stockade Google group for the latest snow information.

SAVE THE DATES

Stockade Association Social Hour - Mondays at 3pm, 3/2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 at Arthur's Market.
Stockade Association Neighborhood Meeting - Thurs, March 19, 7pm. Stockade Inn. See pg. 2
Art Night - Friday, March 20, 4 - 8:30pm. See page 2.
Stockade Church Lenten Events - . See page 2.
Stockade Walkabout Planning Meeting - Saturday, March 21, 10:30am. See back cover.

SCHS Celebrates America's 250th

- Suzy Unger, President, Schenectady County Historical Society

Ten Things You Didn't Know About the American Revolution:

Talk on March 21, 2-4pm at The SCHS, 32 Washington Ave.

As many are aware, this July 4th marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, what we traditionally consider our national birthday. Our semiquincentennial demands special attention and the Schenectady County Historical Society is already offering programs as we acknowledge the founding of our nation.

The historical society kicked off its 250 observances with "Threads of Liberty." This exhibit at the 32 Washington Avenue museum marks the return of our very own Liberty Flag. This flag, or one like it, flew for the first time in Schenectady in 1771. It is also believed to have been carried by a New York regiment in 1776 and 1777. Ours is the last surviving Liberty Flag in the country. It has been on display at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

For further details, check out the society's website at schenectadyhistorical.org. If you are not already a member of the historical society, consider joining. Membership is \$35 and gets you into many programs for free or at a discount, a privilege that extends to other museums and historic sites.

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 Street.

Had Experiences with Flooding?

This article is for you!

- John Zinda

Calling all property owners with property in the Stockade! **John Zinda** of **Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences** is looking for homeowners in areas that have a history of flooding. Flooding and storm damage can be painful and costly for households and communities. Flood and windstorm insurance coverages are meant to enable people to recover more quickly and fully from floods. Yet for various reasons, choices about obtaining insurance can be difficult to make, and the process of seeking claims payments can be arduous. In an effort to better understand homeowners' experiences with homeowners insurance, the team at **Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences** is interviewing homeowners in flood-affected areas of New York. Their goal is to better understand how people make decisions about purchasing coverage and filing claims, with the hope of helping make flood and windstorm insurance provision more equitable and responsive to the peoples' needs.

They plan to interview around 20 homeowners in areas that have histories of flooding. Participants must be at least 18 years old. They ask about your understandings and decisions around flood and wind insurance and any experiences you might have with flooding and filing insurance claims. Interviews last between 40 and 100 minutes. Interviews can be either in person or online. Participants will be compensated for their time.

If you are interested in participating, please contact **John Zinda**, Associate Professor, Cornell University at: floodrisk@cornell.edu 607.255.1795

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Stockade Association Board Meeting

- Suzanne S. Unger

Stockade Inn, February 2. After the treasurer's report, **Chris Marney** gave an update on planned events: Tavern Night on February 7, General Meeting on March 19, a Spring Brunch on April 4 and the annual meeting on May 21. **Sylvie Briber** reported that the first meeting of the Walkabout Committee would be on February 21. The Walkabout/Streetfest is scheduled for September 26. The committee is looking for houses to include on the tour. As editor of the Spy, Ms. Briber is continuing to research delivering the Spy via bulk mail. During the report on Metroplex, there was a discussion of snow clearance on the crosswalks at Erie Blvd. During the president's report, **Katherine Stephens** reported that the applications to renew the logo trademarks have been submitted. Nominations to the City Historic Resources Commission were also discussed.

Susannah Hand reported that a location within the Stockade has been identified for the storage of Stockade Association records and supplies.

The board continued its work on strategic planning by prioritizing goals, selecting as its top goals: "engagement, assessing the streetscape plan and environmental concerns." This will be discussed at the next meeting and the board agreed to review the plan before the meeting.

The board agreed to hold its next meeting in April.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM

PORCH LIGHTS ON for Stockade Safety!



Stockade Association General Meeting

- Suzanne S. Unger

The Association held its general meeting on January 15 at the Stockade Inn. There was a business meeting where the following was discussed: upcoming events including Tavern Night, on February 7, the Walkabout on September 26, 2026, Cleanup Day on April 18 and a "Pour and Pull" in Riverside Park on May 16.

Elizabeth Walsh gave a presentation about ONE Schenectady, a movement seeking to build resident power, unlock human potential and create community. ONE stands for "Organize, Nurture, Empower."

Following the presentation, President **Katherine Stephens** discussed snow emergencies, and donating to the Stockade Association. She also addressed "Know Your Rights" from the Office for New Americans and ways neighbors can help.

The meeting ended with a discussion about traffic and specifically speeding. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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Schenectady Heritage Foundation is now accepting recommendations for its 2026 Historic Preservation Awards. Contact the Foundation at: gloria@schenectadyheritage.org.



Congratulations to our Stockade president **Katherine Stephens** for performing in "Man of La Mancha" at Schenectady Light Opera March 13-22.

We are sorry to see **Graham's Coffee Parlor** leave the Stockade Inn but we can still visit owner, **Katryn Malen** at her 3406 State Street location for delicious scones, muffins and yummy coffees!

Have important mentions about our Stockade neighbors? Please email sylviebriber@gmail.com so we can include it in our Tidings.

Need Help with Your Energy Bills?

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help. Call (800)342-3009 or go to: otda.ny.gov/programs/apply/#heap Then click on Home Energy Assistance Program

The Schenectady Civic Players present "The Seafarer" March 20 - 29

By Conor McPherson, Directed by Tony Pallone



The Seafarer is a chilling Tony-nominated play about the sea and the power of myth. It's Christmas Eve and Sharky has returned to Dublin to look after his aging brother who is recently gone blind. Old drinking buddies Ivan and

Nicky are holed up at the house too, hoping to play some cards. But the arrival of a stranger from the distant past raises the stakes, and as the game unfolds, Sharky realizes he's playing for much more than just money.

The Schenectady Civic Playhouse is right in our own Stockade neighborhood at 12 South Church Street.

Performance dates are Friday-Sunday (March 20-22) and Wednesday-Sunday (March 25 -29). Friday and Saturday curtains are at 8:00 PM, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 PM, and Sunday matinees at 2:30 PM. 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



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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

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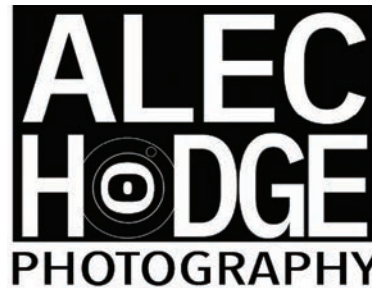
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SUNY Schenectady Community Archaeology Program (CAP) 2025 Marked its 25th Anniversary!

Two courses will be offered this Spring:
The Native American Course and, The Archaeological Lab-
oratory Practices.

For further details and registration see: <https://sunysccc.edu/About-Us/Workforce-Development-and-Community-Education/Program-and-Course-Catalog/Spring/Archaeology.html>

To receive the newsletter in digital format, email Louise Basa at basala@sunysccc.edu.

Stockade Funny Friends

Meet "Willy," Debbie Graham's
Pomeranian & Shih Tzu mix.
Willy is a very active fourteen
year old and loves to walk, hike,
and kayak. He's shared Debbie's
home since he was 6 months old.
- Gloria Kishton



Birds of the Stockade - Jamie Taft (AKA Capt. Eagle Eyes)



Birds fluff their feathers to stay warm
in the winter. Birds that stay in the
north during winter eat seeds and ber-
ries. Birds that winter in the south eat
flying insects.

The Open Door March Events

Saturday March 28, 1-2:30, **Roger Sheffer** will sign "Loon
Counters" (stories about the Adirondacks)



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 Animal control voicemail (518) 382-5200, ext. 5655
 City website: cityofscheneectady.com

MARCH WASTE COLLECTION DATES

TUESDAYS, MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

BULK ITEMS PICK UP: TUESDAY, MARCH 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.cityofscheneectady.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."

PLANNING ON CHANGES TO A HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY?

Changes to the exterior of property visible 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. Questions? Call Sergy Dossous at (518) 382-5147, ext.5406 or email: smossous@scheneectadyny.gov.

The Stockade Spy

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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.

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WEDNESDAYS

7:00 PM Prayer Meeting

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60th Stockade Walkabout! - *Sylvie Briber*
Saturday, September 26 - Mark Your Calendar!

For our new neighbors: Our Stockade Walkabout is a wonderful day! It's a time to celebrate our unique neighborhood when several special Stockade homes are open. Neighbors, friends and visitors can step inside and enjoy architectural treasures, delightful furniture styles, artifacts found in houses, and hear historic family stories. Did you know that we have houses preserved here from the 1700s, 1800s and 1900s?

This day is filled with seeing old friends, tours, exhibits, archaeological digs, historic lectures, music, neighbors in historic costumes, good food, and more!

One important house that will be on the tour is 205 Union Street, being lovingly restored by its owners, Chris White and Chris Marney. They will exhibit many fascinating finds they've discovered in the flooring, walls and staircase.

MORE TO COME!



Artifacts unearthed at 205 Union St.



Photos by Chris White

Join the Walkabout team!

If you'd like to be in on the fun, please join us for our next meeting on Saturday, March 21, 10:30am at my house, 23 Washington Ave. Please let me know if you plan to come - sylviebriber@gmail.com.

Stockade StreetFest Returns for the Walkabout!



The StreetFest will once again collaborate with the Stockade Association, in conjunction with the Walkabout of historic homes on Saturday, September 26th. This year's festival promises an even broader selection of artisans, crafters, and local vendors. The footprint will extend along Front Street from Lawrence Circle, turning onto North Church Street and continuing to the Stockade Inn, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere. More in the April Spy!



TAVERN NIGHT

The 1690 Schenectady Massacre was commemorated with a luminary display followed by **Tavern Night**, with food provided by Maria's Cafe and the wonderful hospitality of the Stockade Inn (left).

Flamingoes Return!

Once again, the Valentine's Day flamingos returned to Lawrence Circle in the heart of the Stockade neighborhood (right).

Photo by Chris White



Photo by Gloria Kishron