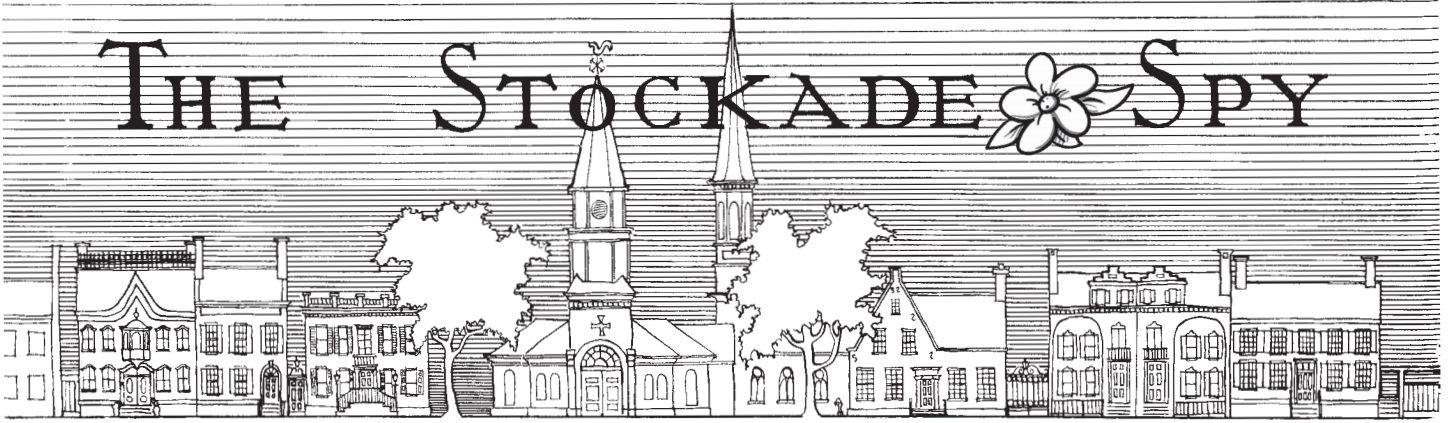


THE STOCKADE SPY



May 2026

Published by The Stockade Association

historicstockade.org

Vol. 67 No.9

May is National Historic Preservation Month!

-Gloria Kisthon, Chair, Sch'dy Heritage Foundation
Every year, **Schenectady Heritage Foundation** honors select individuals or organizations for their preservation efforts. These awards are reserved exclusively for the most outstanding examples of historic preservation in Schenectady County. The Foundation is pleased to recognize eight properties with **Preservation Awards**.

2026 Historic Preservation Awards Thursday, May 28, 4pm Schenectady City Hall rotunda

Please join us as we recognize the outstanding work of these preservationists! Light refreshments will be served. For more information please email the Foundation at: gloria@schenectadyheritage.org.

6 N. Ferry St. (right)
Richard Brown & Matthew Moross.

Campbell House,
101 State St (Partners LLC, owner).

9 Yates Street -
Jeffrey & Jennelle Cardone.

Old Pump Station,
Riverside Park - City of Schenectady.

Elmer Gardens -
Elmer Avenue School conversion,
Home Leasing LLC.

1350 Wendell Ave. Catherine & Wm. Roberts.
Christ Episcopal Church, Duanesburg.

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The Alexander

3 State Street

Joe Johnson and Jeff McDonald, owners

Photos by Gloria Kisthon



Remember! the speed limit in the Stockade is now



MAY WASTE COLLECTION
TUES, MAY 5, 12, & 19. WED, MAY 27
Bulk items pick up:
Tuesday, May 19

WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

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

September Spy Deadline:
AUGUST 15
Please email Editor:
sylviebriber@gmail.com

NEWS: Starting in September, Spys will be mailed directly to every Stockade resident!

STOCKADE GATEWAY RESTORATION UNDERWAY - Gloria Kisthon

Originally built in 1998 at the Union Street entrance to the Stockade, the **Stockade Gateway** deteriorated significantly over the years. In an effort to save the original trees SHF hired arborists, to no avail. In 2018, we began a campaign to rehabilitate the Gateway. Now, construction is finally underway! A new plan honoring the original design by **Werner Feibes**, was developed by Mary Moore Wallinger of LAnd Art Studio. Changes include more resilient trees - disease resistant elms, and serviceberries. The invasive burning bush hedge will be replaced by native plantings. An exciting new addition will be a bronze statue honoring **Dr. Elizabeth Gillette**, the first licensed female surgeon in Sch'dy County and the first woman elected to the NY State Assembly. **Dexter Benedict** sculpted this and other statues located in

Schdy's downtown. Metroplex Development Authority and the City of Schenectady are funding the project. Initial maintenance of the landscaping will be supported by the Foundation's **John & Jean Zegger Fund**, and a generous donation from **Werner Feibes**.



Courtesy of LAnd Art Studio

President's Message - Katherine Stephens

One of the most beautiful features in May, if allergies aren't an issue for you, of course!, are the lilac blossoms. The scent always makes me pause. The colors are always taking my focus. I don't know where I'm sent whenever I come across a lilac bush in full bloom but I am transported. It must not just be me, however, as lilacs are often used in literature to evoke emotion, memory, or spiritual transition. As we enter the final month of Spring, I hope you're able to take some time and space to see if, like Mother Nature, you are in a season of transition. Maybe you're looking for more connection, meaning, or fun. You don't have to look too far. Right here in the Stockade, there are plenty of opportunities to connect with others. Maybe it's coming to watch folks at the skatepark, maybe it's nodding hello to someone you see walk their dog often, maybe it's coming to the Weed and Wine event on May 23. Whatever fills your cup, I'm sure you can find it here, the place we call home.



Maiden Hawthorn - Victoria Gatta

No more in silver vapours she hid,
But crown'd with Hawthorn and
the young year's gold.



Stood at the green world's altar, the hills
made answer each to each with Beltane fire.
There met she Summer hand to kindling hand,
While every bough put on its bridal white,
from the orchard of the secret thorn,
Lilacs bloomed like blessings on the marriage air.

Help at Lawrence Garden Needed - Dianne Crozier

Weekend of May 1 - It's Spring and time to spread the mulch at the Lawrence garden. Are there a few able bodied folks who are willing to help? It would probably take only an hour, with a bit of strength required, the weekend of May 1st. I would be eternally grateful!

Information and applications for the Stockade Association Sidewalk Incentive Program are available online at: historicstockade.org

Calling all artists! Registration is now open for the 75th annual **Stockade Villagers' Art Show**. This year's show will be held on Saturday September 12th. Take advantage of the early registration discount here: <https://www.historicstockade.org/stockade-villagers-outdoor-art-show/> or use the QR code.



STOEP and WINDOW BOX AWARDS

Sunday, June 28, Completion Deadline - Colleen Macaulay

Let our walkways and homes reflect our rich history and all we have to celebrate! This year's categories:

- 1) In honor of our country's 250 Red, White and Blue.
- 2) 60th Walkabout, or Diamond Year; think silver & white.
- 3) The Villagers Outdoor Art Show is celebrating its 75th year - The Sapphire Jubilee.
- 4) Honoring our rich history on the Land Beyond the Pines - a collection of Native plantings.

Recognition signs will be placed on the winning stoeps and boxes prior to The Fourth of July.

Looking forward to your green thumb designs!

Stockade Association Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 21 - 7pm The Stockade Inn

All Neighbors Are Invited!

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors on May 21 is going to be exciting! Two speakers are coming to share excellent resources to residents of Schenectady County. A representative from the **Cancer Services Program** of Fulton, Montgomery, and Schenectady Counties will speak about free cancer screenings for eligible individuals age 40-64 without health insurance. Screenings include mammograms, pap tests, and colorectal cancer screening kits.

Secondly, **Gloria Kishton** from the **Schenectady Heritage Foundation** will speak about the Foundation's mission and activities, assistance available to property owners, and the Gateway Project at Union St. and Erie Boulevard.

The Board will also present the **Strategic Goals** that we've been working on for the past year. Come learn about what we're going to focus our energy on and give us some feedback!

Stockade Association Brunch! Saturday, May 30, 10am - noon

Watch for more details on the Association website

Neighborhood-Wide Sidewalk Sale - Colleen Macaulay

Saturday, June 6, 2026 9am - 4pm

Rain day Sunday, June 7, 11am - 4pm

Up and out, down and out, over and out, whatever your reason for wanting it out, June 6 might just be the day!

The **Neighborhood Sidewalk Sale** is a great way to clean out or just get out and visit with neighbors.

If you would like to participate please email Sara by the end of the day Wednesday, June 3 at saralwiest@gmail.com (subject line - sidewalk sale)

This will register your sale and place it on the map. Please include your name, address, phone number and items of interest you are selling.

Participation is free for Stockade Association member households. For non-members a \$10 fee will be collected the day of the sale when permits are handed out.

We're happy to say that the East Front Street Neighborhood is joining in again this year.

What's Schenectady Heritage Foundation? - Gloria Kishton

Schenectady Heritage Foundation is a volunteer non-profit organization whose mission is to foster historic preservation in Schenectady County. It is registered with the NY State Bureau of Charities as a 501c3 educational corporation.

Local preservationists established the Foundation in 1979 to focus solely on historic preservation. The Stockade Association provided initial funding. In 2002, the Foundation expanded to include all of Schenectady County, collaborating with other historic districts and advocates.

The Foundation supports historic building and neighborhood conservation and rehabilitation through education, advocacy, and financial assistance. It cooperates with local, State and Federal governments, organizations, agencies, and private property owners, leveraging modest financial aid to accomplish its mission.

The Foundation consists of a board of directors, guided by the Secretary of the Interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties, administered by the National Park Service.

SAVE THE DATES

Stockade Association Social Hour - Mondays at 3pm, 5/4, 11, 18, & 25 at Arthur's Market.
Stockade Association Board Meeting - Mon., 5/4, 7pm, Stockade Inn. Contact President Katherine Stephens at old.dorp@historicstockade.org if you would like to observe a board meeting.
Stockade Association Annual Meeting - Thursday, May 21, 7pm. Stockade Inn.
Weed & Wine - Saturday, May 23, 2pm. See page 6
Sch'dy Heritage Fdn. Preservation Awards - Thurs, May 28, 4pm. Sch'dy City Hall rotunda.
Stockade Brunch - Saturday, May 30, 10am - noon. Arthur's Market. Details at historicstockade.org
Sidewalk Sale - Saturday, June 6, 9am - 4pm

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE Saturday, May 2, 2026 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM First Reformed Church, 8 N. Church St.

Donors are needed urgently. There is a critical need for blood, and your donation could save several lives. Please schedule an appointment online at redcrossblood.org and become someone's hero. Thank you.



Photo by Gloria Kishiton

St. George's Day Sunday, May 3

Come for Mass at 10am, followed by the traditional festive bagpipe procession through the streets of the Stockade. For more information go to the Church's website: stgeorgesschenectady.org

ART NIGHT SCHENECTADY

**MAY 15 (third Fridays)
 5PM - 8PM
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- Craig Petreikis

Complete information & map: @artnightschenectady on Facebook & Instagram. artnightschenectady.com
 Check out all the great local artists with works on display in Downtown Schenectady shops, galleries, and venues!



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SCHS Celebrates America's 250th

- Suzy Unger, President, Schenectady County Historical Society

The "Threads of Liberty" exhibit at the 32 Washington Ave. museum includes our very own Liberty Flag. This flag, or one like it, flew for the first time in Schenectady in 1771. It's believed that a New York regiment carried it in 1776 and 1777. Ours is the last surviving Liberty Flag in the country!

Upcoming SCHS events and activities:

America 250 Reads: The next book will be *Occupied America: British Military Rule and the Experience of Revolution* by Donald F. Johnson. The first online meeting will be May 13 at 7pm. Open only the SCHS members.

The American Revolution: A Siena College theatre arts program at the Mabee Farm. May 22-24 and May 29-31.

"The Fourth on the Third": This annual program at the Mabee Farm will be extra special this year with a visit by George and Martha Washington and an encampment of the Massachusetts Third reenactors.

Rendezvous with Treason: A play performed by "Drama from the Past" at the Mabee Farm August 1 at 2 PM.

Programs continue this fall. Check the September Spy!

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.



SCHENECTADY COUNTY
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum & Library
 32 Washington Ave

Brouwer House Creative
 14 N Church St

Mabee Farm Historic Site
 Rotterdam Junction

schenectadyhistorical.org
 Events | Exhibits | Research

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Looking Forward - Construction on Electric City Community Grocery Begins

- Carol DeLaMarter



Photo by Gloria Kishiton

When I returned to the Stockade after a three month respite from the snow, I took a walk around to see what changes I might see. Construction continues at the YWCA, snow is gone and early spring crocus and tulips suggest spring is here. However, as member #161 of **Electric City Community Grocery (ECCG)** I've been eager to check out progress on this future grocery so near the Stockade. On Wednesday April 8, I attended one of the tours at the site on the corner of Erie Blvd and Liberty St. A team of **ECCG** leaders met us in the historic lobby of the space which at one time was part movie theater and the old Grog Shoppe. Imagine if you can bins of fresh produce, a small café and the check-out area as you enter from State St or Liberty St. As the tour continued we could see major structural work will be required in this historic space, once adjacent to the Erie Canal. There may be surprises hidden in the floor and walls but there is excitement on seeing the Members' vision emerge as construction begins in May. While we may not be able to see inside for awhile, we can all watch progress from outside and look forward to having an attractive food shopping experience soon within a short walk (or drive) from the Stockade. To follow progress or to become a member, check out *The Beet* newsletter www.electriccityfood.coop.

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.

Stockade Funny Friends - Sylvie Briber

Beloved rescue kitty, **Miss Sassyfras, aka "Misty,"** was adopted from the Animal Protective Foundation on Maple Avenue a couple of years ago at the age of 5 years old by Sylvie Briber and friend. **Misty** is a Tortoiseshell or "Tortie" with swirls of brown, beige, orange and black. She loves her catnip, playing with pipe cleaners and is an excellent guard cat at the back screen door, along with welcoming neighborhood kitties!



Photo by Gloria Kishiton

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60th Stockade Walkabout!

— Sylvie Briber, Chair

Saturday, September 26

Save the Date!

The Countdown Begins!



Our **Stockade Walkabout** is a wonderful day! Neighbors, friends and visitors can step inside some of our 1700, 1800 and 1900 houses and enjoy architectural treasures and artifacts, delightful furniture styles, and hear historic family stories. Also enjoy exhibits, tours, music, food and much more!

We would like to thank our 6 home owners who have graciously agreed to open their homes:

Chris White & Christopher Marney at 205 Union Street.

Suzy & Rich Unger at 216 ½ Union St.

Susan DuFour at 4 Cucumber Alley

Mary D'Alessandro-Gilmore at 7 Washington Avenue

Sylvie Briber at 23 Washington Avenue

Melissa Brown at 58A Washington Ave.

Our three churches will also be open – St. George's Episcopal Church, First Reformed Church and First Presbyterian Church, along with The Schenectady County Historical Society, The Civic Playhouse, and The Stockade Inn. And as a special treat: The Hendrick Brouwer House at 14 North Church Street will be open, one of the two oldest homes in the Stockade!

Join the Walkabout Team!

If you would like to be in on the fun, please be in touch with me, Sylvie Briber, Chair, for details about our next meeting. sylviebriber@gmail.com.



Stockade StreetFest Returns for the Walkabout!

— Ryan Solghan, Chair

Stockade StreetFest returns for 2026 following last year's highly successful event, which brought together a vibrant mix of vendors, artists, and local food and drink. In partnership once again with the Stockade Association, this year's festival will take place alongside the historic homes **Walkabout** on Saturday, September 26th.

The event footprint will span Front Street from Lawrence to North Church Street and down to the Stockade Inn, creating a lively, welcoming atmosphere throughout the district. Interest is already strong, with many vendors pre-registering early. Of the 75 available spots, nearly half are already filled as spring begins.

Returning favorites and new additions are planned to enhance the experience. Mark your calendar and join us for a day of community, creativity, and celebration. For vendor inquiries, contact StockadeStreetFest@gmail.com.

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Tidings

Meet **William Graves**, 10 months old, son of proud parents, **Mary Zawacki Graves** and **Roland Graves**. William loves being silly, playing peek-a-boo, exploring the neighborhood, and chatting with whomever is around!



Stockade Neighbors Invited to Debut of "weed & wine" Saturday, May 23 2pm, Riverside Park

As spring returns to the Historic Stockade and gardens begin to wake from their winter rest, a new neighborhood tradition will make its debut this May! To help Mother Nature, Stockade residents are invited to take part in the inaugural **"Weed & Wine,"** a community gathering that blends a little light gardening with good company and a glass of wine

The event will start at **"Stonehenge"** (the cul de sac at the end of Governor's Lane) in the lower backyard of Governor's Mansion. Neighbors will begin by sharing a glass of wine together before heading into Riverside Park for the gardening portion of the event. Upon completion, everyone is invited to return to the backyard for more wine, conversation, to compare blister formations, and the simple pleasure of spending time together. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be available so that everyone can comfortably take part in the gathering.

Events like this capture the spirit of the Stockade at its best: neighbors working side by side, meeting new residents, and reconnecting with friends who may live just a few doors away. Whether someone is new to the neighborhood or has called the Stockade home for many years, **"Weed & Wine"** offers a relaxed way to enjoy a spring afternoon while helping keep Riverside Park looking its best.

Bring your gardening gloves and, of course, your never-ending Stockade community spirit! See you at the **"Stonehenge"** - 23 MAY 2026 - 1400 (2 pm)! - *Jac Solghan*

RIVERSIDE DIY SKATEPARK - Gordon Hendrick

Spring has finally arrived and the skaters are celebrating. It's been 5 years since I've been living in the Stockade and frequenting the makeshift skatepark that has developed in the meantime. It has been an immense pleasure to connect with neighbors and visitors to the park. Over the winter I spoke to WAMC about how vital and sacred the skatepark is to myself and many others, as well as the possibility of formally developing the space into a permanent skatepark.

We are encouraged by the recent support from the City Council and the Stockade Association. On behalf of the skaters, I want to express our deep gratitude to the open-minded residents of the Stockade that allowed and encouraged us to grow. It is a bit unclear what is next but for now, we will enjoy the beautiful spring weather.



Photo by Gloria Kishon

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DOGGIE DOS - Colleen Macaulay

If your doggie poops,
No matter the season,
There is NO reason
To not stoop and scoop!!!



For your convenience The Stockade Association supplies poop bags throughout the neighborhood Do I have to pick up my dog poop????? YES!!!! It's the LAW

Dog waste can pose serious health risks to humans and animals. It can contain harmful bacteria, parasites, and viruses, such as E. coli, which can cause severe diarrhea and other gastro-intestinal illnesses. It can also carry Salmonella and parasites such as roundworms and hookworms, particularly concerning for children who play where dog waste could be present. When dog waste is left to decompose, it releases nutrients that can contribute to water pollution, leading to algae blooms, which can harm aquatic ecosystems.

Stockade Association Board Meeting Summary, April 6, 2026 - Suzanne Unger

The following committees reported: **Membership/Marketing** will be making signs announcing the next general meeting to be put around the Stockade; **Events** Committee thanked the Stockade Inn for hosting Tavern Night; the **Walkabout** Committee has lined up six houses and is looking for at least one more; **Nominating** Committee is looking for candidates to serve on the board and will be posting a notice on the website; **Sylvie Briber** reported that the Spy will be mailed starting next fall.

Colleen Macaulay attended the River Symposium. **Gloria Kishton** will be giving a presentation about the Schenectady Heritage Foundation at the next general meeting. **Katherine Stephens** reported on a meeting about the skateboard park with City Councilman Carl Williams. She also reported on an executive committee meeting about implementing the streetscape plan. The following motions were made and approved unanimously: MOTION made by Katherine Stephens, seconded by Colleen Macaulay to give St. George's Church \$300 towards the cost of St. George's Day. Funds would be used to pay the police and/or the pipe band.

MOTION made by Keith Dayer seconded by Colleen Macaulay to accept the proposal submitted by Planning4Places on how to proceed with implementing the streetscape plan.

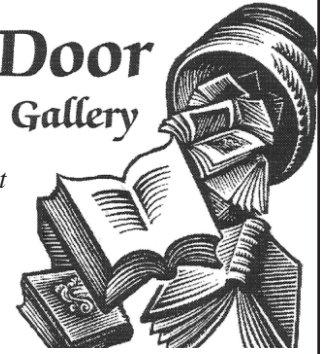
Stockade Association General Meeting Summary, March 19, 2026 - Suzanne Unger

The Stockade Association held its General Membership Meeting at the Stockade Inn on March 19, 2026. County legislators **Richard Ruzzo**, **Richard Patierne** and **Omar McGill** gave a presentation on the programs and services offered by Schenectady County. The meeting was well attended. Topics of discussion included: the Aquatic Center, the 4c Exit off 890, the community grocery, food insecurity, affordable housing and assistance to maintain properties.

Dan O'Neill, vice president, ran the business meeting. He announced the Earth Day Clean Up on April 18 and a "Weed and Wine" gathering on May 16 to weed in the park followed by wine and cheese at Eric Johnson's. Dan noted that the renovation of the Gateway at Erie and Union will begin soon. Some of the other upcoming activities are: Sidewalk Sale (June 6), May Annual Meeting (May 21), Walkabout/Streetfest (September 26).

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Susannah Hand
 Term expires 5/2026

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

MAY WASTE COLLECTION DATES

TUESDAYS, MAY 5, 12, & 19; WEDNESDAY, MAY 27
BULK ITEMS PICK UP: TUESDAY, MAY 19

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."

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: cityofschenectady.com/203/Historic-District-Commission. Questions? Call Sergy Dossous at (518) 382-5147, ext.5406 or email: sm-dossous@schenectadyny.gov.

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.

Birds of the Stockade

- Jamie Taft (AKA Capt. Eagle Eyes)

Warblers are birds that are not necessarily closely related to one another, but share some characteristics. They are fairly small and eat insects. And they have beautiful songs. They migrate to South America for the winter, but travel back north during the night.



The Stockade Spy

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