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March/April ~ 2019



#### **Woodlawn Community Garage Sale**

~ Permits on sale April 13<sup>th</sup> ~
Sale Dates: May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

Must have a Permit - only \$10

Proceeds benefit your neighborhood...

We'll promote your sale location in Map/Flier

Spring Ahead - Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

TAX DAY Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

# WHAT'S INSIDE?

President's Message ~ Woodlawn Park
The Golden Ear ~ Woodlawn Preserve
Westside Story ~ Community Highlights
ECOS (Recycling) ~ Public Safety Info.
Senior Center News...and more

Woodlawn Neighborhood Meetings - 4th Wednesday of the month 7 PM @ Hibernian Hall (1748 State Street)



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Griswold Funeral Home
Hibernian Hall
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Kingsway Community

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Woodlawn Library

Woodlawn Park



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#### Community Garage Sale... Upcoming Neighborhood Meetings





Please mark your calendar for our Annual Woodlawn Garage Sale, scheduled for the weekend of May 18 & 19. Beginning April 13, permits can be purchased at the Sunoco Gas/Food Mart on 2501 Albany Street and at Grasso's Barber Shop on 2506 Albany Street. The cost of the permit is still only \$10.00. Please remember, you must have a permit issued by the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association in order to participate in this very popular event.

We have invited **County Legislator**, **Gary Hughes** to speak at our **March 27** meeting. He will bring us up to date regarding improvements to the Woodlawn Public Library and other county initiatives. We also intend to have **representatives from the Schenectady City School District** at our **April 24** meeting to inform us on the proposed school budget and what impacts the State budget may or may not have on our children. An open question and answer session will take place.

The Schenectady City Council is still hosting their "Coffee with the Council" at the Schenectady GreenMarket. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and have an opportunity to talk with your elected officials. Learn about programs and opportunities offered throughout the city, and meet invited department heads on a regular basis at the GreenMarket. Of course, it's also your opportunity to support our local small businesses at the same time! The Council will be there on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 10 AM to 1 PM. The GreenMarket is located inside the Proctors Arcade area thru April, then we move outside to City Hall.

Reminder, our association meetings are now on the fourth Wednesday of each month starting at 7 PM, at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, 1748 State Street.

The **Schenectady Senior Center** is open every Tuesday/Thursday from 10 AM - 2 PM, also at the AOH. **Lunch is served at noon, \$3.00 donation.** 

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at home, 377-8810. I will make every attempt to return your call as soon as possible.

Ed Kosiur—President, Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

3

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## The Golden Ear—By John Rose This Is A Gossip Column



Saint Paul's Church has a young priest on weekends. His name is Father Matthew Frisoni. Welcome to Saint Paul's! He is a native of Schenectady and attended St. Anthony's School and Schenectady High School. He is an excellent preacher! Please stop by 5:30 on Saturdays or Sunday mornings at 8 am and 11 am. You are in for a treat!

Amelia's Restaurant on State Street is near completion. Look for the grand opening sometime next month. This reporter has toured the inside and it's almost completely finished. For those of you who don't know, the owner is the former owner of Dolce Vita. If you have experienced it, you know the food was absolutely fantastic!!

The Woodlawn True Value has a buyer who would like to open a liquor store in that location. The closing is imminent!

We have two terrific car and truck mechanics here in Woodlawn. They are Mike Rogan and Garbalano. They are G&M Auto located on upper State Street near the fire station. Check them out!

Newsflash!! The dialysis in the Aldi Plaza or Woodlawn Plaza, is moving to the Crosstown Plaza in the near future.

More good news! Woodlawn Park received a grant for \$55,000 to build and install a splash pad in the park. If anyone would like to contribute or works for a company who would like to contribute, call Lou Grasso at Woodlawn Neighborhood Headquarters at 518-346-6775.

Saint Paul's Church is running a bus trip to York, Maine from September 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. We will stay at the Anchorage in York. This trip comes with two lobster dinners, two breakfasts, a deluxe room and a terrific bus ride. This includes a trip to L.L. Bean and a stop at Rock Port in Cape Ann on the way home. For more information, call Lou Grasso at 518-346-6775.

Please remember to spay and neuter your pets.

That's it for now folks, and I'll be listening.

John Rose

#### BETH ANN KAYSER

2504 Albany Street Schenectady, NY 12304

#### WE DO INCOME TAXES



#### WOODLAWN – The West Side Story By Marcel

VibeZ Bar & Lounge, located at the former Camillo's site at 1490 State Street (Phone 518-280-3593), is and has been open since November 3, 2018 for your food, beverage and entertainment needs. According to Nishal Mohabeer, the owner, VibeZ is open during the following times:

Monday: Closed	Tuesday/Wednesday: Noon-10 pm
	Friday/Saturday: Noon - 3 am (Entertainment 9-3am; Last Call 2:45 am)
Sunday: Noon - Midnight (5 TVs available for Sports	

The food menu is upscale bar (somewhere between usual bar and full restaurant fare) with an emphasis on chicken specialties. Since Nishal and his mom are the cooks, I believe that the food is prepared with a Caribbean touch. The main food menu is available from Noon-9pm with a reduced late night menu available afterwards. Recent Facebook posts have extremely favorable food reviews. As a result, VibeZ' takeout food business continues to increase.

There are three well-dressed security personnel on duty during the entertainment days. To date, there have been no security issues. VibeZ is welcoming to all people and continues to experiment in offering a variety of entertainment. However, the most popular is with a DJ spinning music which appeals to the 21-50 age group. Videos of recent Friday/Saturday night show that the place draws a good crowd with people enjoying the music and dancing.

There is limited parking around the establishment. However, patrons can park across the street in the Family Dollar lot. A traffic light is available to assist in crossing State Street.

During my visit, I observed the place to be very clean. The bar is fully stocked. The staff is very courteous and provides prompt table service. The food and beverage prices are reasonable. Nishal and his staff go out of their way to ensure that each patron is safe. Rides are ordered for those in need. At times, his staff has provided patrons a ride home.

Nishal is very energetic and has ambitious plans for making VibeZ a continued success. A front patio is planned for this spring/summer.

So, if you haven't been to VibeZ yet, let your hair down and plan a Friday or Saturday visit.

Till next time....



Free Tax Preparation - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

United Way of the Greater Capital Region www.unitedwaygcr.org/tax-preparation

Spring is on its way! We're already planning our events and looking to address some problems that continue to plague our Preserve.

The Woodlawn Preserve is unique as it is not only a Preserve for our enjoyment of nature, but also serves a municipal purpose in reducing flooding in the Woodlawn neighborhood. Last year we experienced considerable flooding as a result of beaver activity. The trails were sometimes impassable, and the city had to expend considerable time and energy to clear out the culvert that had been blocked by the beavers. DEC Forest Ranger Dave Nally patrols the Preserve frequently, and reported his observation of increased beaver population and damage to us, so we called the DEC to assess the situation. Wildlife Technician Joe Nelson did a site visit on January 16th, 2019. Extensive damage by beavers was observed, including multiple trees taken down and used as dam material. The culvert pipe that is below the railroad track was not accessible due to the high water level. There is a metal device to stop the beavers from entering the culvert but the angle as well as the size of the openings are not hindering the beavers progress. South of the tracks there were 2 dams present. The first was lower than the water level and looked a little broken up. The second was the larger of the two and was the one responsible for the increased water level. Along that stream bank most of the small trees had already been taken down, and some of the larger oaks were started on. Joe Nelson's observations and suggestions were forwarded to and discussed with City Engineer Chris Wallin, who is working on solutions to reduce the beaver population and improve the drainage issues.

We are worried about the increasing proliferation of phragmites (reed grass) around the pond. It is very prolific, and difficult to eradicate. Invasive plants, such as phragmites, are species that were introduced to an area that is outside of their natural range of dispersal and, once introduced, will begin to grow and thrive in these new areas. Once established, these invasive species tend to dominate the area, out competing native species and, in some cases, destroy the overall ecosystem by eliminating all native plants and making the area useless to the animal life that once called these areas home. Reducing native fish and wildlife populations and access to the shoreline limits recreational values for birdwatchers, walkers, fishermen and naturalists. Eventually, it will proliferate to the point of compromising the function of the pond, which is to capture excess water and prevent flooding in the Woodlawn neighborhood. We are hoping to find a grant that will help eradicate and control the phragmites to keep the ecosystem within the Preserve in balance, and maintain the integrity of the retention pond.

The jersey barriers piled up at the entrance to the Preserve on Gifford Road will soon be put in place along the borders to prevent unlawful access by motorized vehicles, such as dirt bikes, ATVs and snowmobiles.

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve will be leading two hikes in the Woodlawn Preserve. The first will be Thursday April 25, 2019 at 11 am "Signs of Spring at Woodlawn Preserve". Meet at the Gifford Road entrance for a walk of approximately 1-1/2 miles around the pond. This hike is suitable for all ages.

(con't, pg. 7)

RESER

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### Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

#### MEETING SCHEDULE ~ 2019

#### **General Neighborhood Association meeting**

4th Wednesday of each month - 7 PM @ Hibernian Hall (1748 State Street)

(No general meeting in August/December)

Woodlawn Park & Woodlawn Preserve committee meetings

4th Wednesday of each month - 6 PM @ Hibernian Hall (1748 State Street)

#### **Officers:**

President - Ed Kosiur (377-8810) Vice President - Lou Grasso (374-1623) Treasurer - Chad Putman (225-0957) Secretary - Rose Harrell (346-4665)

**District Vice Presidents:** 

East: Cole Denning (227-4085) West: Jim LaPointe (377-2092)

#### **Committee Chairpersons:**

Newsletter & Woodlawn Park - Spero Zoulas (331-0929)

Newsletter Ads - Cole Denning (227-4085)

Woodlawn Preserve - Janet Given (210-5439)

Social/Refreshment - Rita Figler

Welcoming - Camy Wyckoff (370-5311)

If you have any suggestions pertaining to any of these officers or committees, please call or mail suggestions to:

Woodlawn Neighborhood Association 2506 Albany Street, Schenectady, NY 12304

Go to *www.woodlawnneighborhood.org* to get the latest information on Woodlawn Meetings, Events & Happenings.



Public Safety Notice In case of emergency, call 911...

Officer Dane Flavin patrols Woodlawn from 4 pm to Midnight. Officer Brandon Kietlinski patrols during the day.

Please email non-emergency questions/concerns to Officer Flavin at dflavin@schenectadypd.com

Non-Emergency phone calls: 630-0911

www.schenectadypd.com

Schenectady Police Department - 531 Liberty Street Schenectady, NY 12305 - (518) 382 - 5200

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#### Woodlawn Preserve Article - (con't from pg. 5)

The second hike, "Bird Walk at Woodlawn Preserve" will be on Saturday May 11, 2019 at 7am. This activity is suitable for ages 6-10, tweens, teens and adults. Bring your own binoculars or borrow ours. Both of these activities require registration, and children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Make your reservation by calling 518-456-0655 or visit <a href="www.AlbanyPineBush.org/events">www.AlbanyPineBush.org/events</a>.

Contact information to report unusual activity or vandalism in the Woodlawn Preserve: Schenectady Police non-emergency #: 518-630- 0911; Email Patrolman Dane Flavin at <a href="mailto:dflavin@schenectadypd.com">dflavin@schenectadypd.com</a>.

DEC: 1-877-457-5680;

DEC Forest Ranger Dave Nally: 518-424-7805 or 518-408-5850.

<u>David.nally@dec.ny.gov</u>.

Janet Chen, Chair Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve 518-210-5439 friendswp@gmail.com









#### Reducing, Reusing, Recycling Shrink Carbon Footprint

#### Climate Change Concerns Growing

Recent surveys increasingly identify climate change as a top concern among populations worldwide. Likely ramped up by the release of the late-2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which warned of the urgency for global reduction of the problem-causing "greenhouse gas emissions" (GHGs), many more are realizing the need for immediate effective action.

Since we all do things that generate GHGs, many of us want to know: What can we do as individuals to decrease our GHG generation (also known as our carbon footprint)? The answer is that there are many facets of our lives that generate GHGs. Primarily, our GHG generation results from use of resources, particularly non-renewable energy and those products that utilize it.

#### Managing our Materials

When it comes to managing our materials (at or from our homes) - and potential subsequent disposal of them - reducing, reusing, and recycling are effective practices that individuals can undertake to lessen our carbon footprints. This briefly explains how (in the order of their approximate effectiveness):

Waste Reduction- generally, the less materials we acquire and ultimately waste, the less energy we use.

Reuse- the more we reuse materials for certain tasks (like bags, containers, fabrics/ clothes), the less we will use new ones, reducing our waste (see above) and thus the en-

Recycling- recycling also conserves energy because using more recyclables, and less extracted /virgin materials, to manufacture our products generally uses less energy.

In addition, organics recovery, e.g. donating excess food, composting or otherwise using produce trimings/scraps & yard waste (especially at home), also reduces energy use. It additionally avoids their potential disposal in landfills, where they generate potent GHG methane, which commonly escapes to the atmosphere.

#### Energy & GHG Savings

It is estimated that by the average household recycling half of its waste generation, it reduces carbon dioxide (CO2-the most prevalent GHG) yearly emissions by over a ton, or the rough equivalent of driving an average vehicle 8,500 miles. How do the various commonly-recycled materials add up in energy savings/GHG reductions?

The following table depicts the approximate Percentage of Energy Saved (about equal to the GHG reduced) by using recycled vs. virgin-sourced materials in making similar products:

Aluminum Cans - 95% Plastic - 33% Steel and Tin - 60 - 74% Glass - 20 30% Cardboard - 24 % Paper - 60%

Note the significant energy savings and resulting GHG reduction. It is clear that recycling these materials conserves energy, helps mitigate climate change, and protects the environment, so... Thank you for doing your part!

USEPA: epa.gov/recycle; idahostatesman.com/opinion/article210022149.html; thegreenteam.org/recycling-facts/

Patrick Golden, ECOS Recycling Committee Member &

SCEAC recycling team member

Interested in volunteering your time, talents, or ideas? Email us at info@ecosny.org

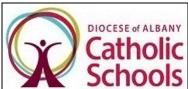
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#### Notable Days in March & April...

#### March

1<sup>st</sup> - Peanut Butter Lover's Day 8<sup>th</sup> - International Women's Day 10<sup>th</sup> - Daylight Savings Time Begins 17<sup>th</sup> - St. Patrick's Day 20<sup>th</sup> - Spring Equinox & Int'l Earth Day



13th - Garage Sale Permits on Sale

21st - Easter Sunday

22<sup>nd</sup> - Earth Day

26<sup>th</sup> - Arbor Day

27<sup>th</sup> - Woodlawn Park Cleanup Day











#### 2019 **WASTE COLLECTION DATES WOODLAWN**

District #1 Woodlawn—Central Park District #2 Crosstown to Brandywine

March 4, 11, 18, 25 April

5, 12, 19, 26 April

March

1, 8, 15, 22, 29

2, 9, 16, 23, 30

May 6, 13, 20, 28

May 7, 14, 21, 29

Download your district's full-year schedule at: cityofschenectady.com/531/Waste-Collection-Schedules







#### NEWSLETTER ADS & ARTICLES



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Next deadline is April 20th, 2019

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#### **Contacting the Board of Education**

Correspondence to board members can be directed to the clerk of the board as follows:

Martha Morris, Clerk of the Board Schenectady City School District 108 Education Drive; Schenectady, NY 12303

Phone: 518-370-8100 Ext. 40105



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#### Take a Look "in Cider" Children's Home

We'd like to invite you to our 2018 fall open house! Join us for dinner and to learn about our upcoming improvements and changes to the Children's Home.

Wednesday, October 3 122 Park Avenue Dinner served at 5:30 p.m. Remarks at 6:00 p.m.

Kindly RSVP to Communications@northernrivers.org by Friday, September 29.



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prices! Shop and save where your purchase builds community by assisting hard working families acheive home ownership. Downsizing? Have items to donate? Call or email to arrange a pick-up. Could you make time to volunteer for a worthwhile cause? We are looking for people who care about making a difference in their community.

(518) 395-3412 x101

restore@schenectadyhabitat.org

f schenectady habitat restore



#### ANNUAL PANCAKE **BREAKFAST**

**Ancient Order of Hibernians** 1748 State Street, Schenectady



SCHENECTADY RING OF HOPE BOXING CLUB "If we can change one life, think of the impact it could have!"

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Adults \$8.00 Children 5-12 \$5.00



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M: 10 am - 5 pm

T-TH: 1 pm - 7 pm SAT: 1 pm - 5 pm Closed on Fridays & Sundays

To see what events are going on at this and other Schenectady public libraries, go to: http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=SCNY

#### Coming Soon: New Spray Pad...Spring Cleanup Day...Garage Sale

In the last edition, I addressed the project to install a new spray pad at the park - reintroducing a water feature to the neighborhood after nearly two decades since the pool's closing. We are happy to report that we have been awarded a \$55,000 grant from The Schenectady Foundation's Thriving Neighborhoods initiative! We currently have three other grant applications in to complete this project alongside other green space and recreational improvements, but the awarding of this grant will kick off the initial phase of the spray pad's installation. Meetings with the city, our hired designer, Parkitects, and installer, BradManz Landscaping, have already begun. Our hope is to begin the preliminary demolition/preparation of the site in the park as soon as possible. We will catalog the work on our facebook page as work proceeds.

As we gear up for and manage this major project, it is especially important to get some much needed support from our community during our cleanup and park events. Please volunteer for our Annual Spring Clean-Up Event at the Park on Saturday, April 27th beginning at 9 am. We'll need help raking, clearing trigs and brush, setting out picnic tables, benches, grills and other general tasks. Coffee, water, and treats will be provided and we have rakes, tools and gloves on hand. Pizza will be provided around Noon. We hope you join us to begin our ninth year since adopting the park!

Also coming soon: Our Annual Garage Sale at the Park! We are accepting donations of household items for the garage sale all year round, so please keep us in mind as you clear out your homes during spring cleaning season. And we will again hold our Annual Garage Sale Donation Drop Days on Friday. May 10th (5:00 pm to 7:30 pm) and Saturday, May 11th (8 am to Noon). We thank you in advance for any donations you may be able to provide. This year's sales days will again coincide with the Woodlawn Community Garage Sale Event - Saturday, May 18th and Sunday, May 19th.

We are seeking volunteers to help us with our 2019 Adopt-A-Park initiative. What does it entail? Just go to the park once or twice a week to pick up any litter, organize the "Have-A-Ball" bins and making note of any maintenance needs. Each visit takes just 10-15 minutes and for kids who volunteer, there's Stewarts Gift Cards to earn! Sign up for a month to help keep the park clean. It's also now a great time to donate any of your extra basketballs, footballs, volleyballs, or other sporting items to replenish our "Have-A-Ball" bins. Contact us if you'd like to donate or just stop by the park and feed the bins.

We are always looking for new members to join our committee and volunteer efforts. Message us facebook, email WoodlawnPark411@gmail.com or call 518-331-0929 to offer your support.

Once again...thank you so much for your continued support,

Spero Zoulas, Chair Woodlawn Park Redevelopment Committee





#### Life Enrichment Activities ~ March & April

#### March

- *Tuesday, the 5th:* 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am St Patrick's Day Craft w/Mary Jane; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Thursday, the 7th:* 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am MVP "Chair Moves; 11:15 am Walmart Vision Services; 1 pm Member choice of games
- Tuesday/Thursday, the 12th &14th: Closed
- *Tuesday, the 19th*: 10 am Members choice of games; 12:30 pm Craic Agus Ceol Entertainment: Performing Irish Tunes during lingch
- *Thursday, the 21st:* 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am MVP "Chair Moves"; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Tuesday, the 26th:* 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am Kingsway Home Care Blood Pressure; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Thursday, the 28th:* 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am MVP "Chair Moves"; 12:15 pm Monthly Birthday Bash

#### <u>April</u>

- *Tuesday, the 2nd:* 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am Easter Craft w/ Mary Jane; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Thursday, the 4th*: 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am MVP "Chair Moves"; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Tuesday, the 9th:* 10 am Members choice of games; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Thursday, the 11th:* 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am MVP "Chair Moves"; 11:15 am Walmart Vision Services; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Tuesday, the 16th:* 10 am Members choice of games; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Thursday, the 18th:* 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am MVP "Chair Moves"; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Tuesday, the 23rd:* 10 am Members choice of games; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Thursday, the 25th:* 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am MVP "Chair Moves"; 1 pm Members choice of games
- *Tuesday, the 30th:* 10 am Members choice of games; 10:30 am Kingsway Home Care Blood Pressure; 12:15 pm Monthly Birthday Bash

#### Fun & Games:

\*Bingo \*Yahtzee \*Knitting \*Exercise \*Scrabble \*Uno/Cards \*Shuffleboard \*Trivia \*Dominos \*Rummikub \*Wii Bowling \*Pinochle \*Puzzles \*Pokeno \*Crafts \*Sorry

#### Lunches ~ Noon

Menu available at: <a href="http://cityofschenectady.com/561/Newsletters">http://cityofschenectady.com/561/Newsletters</a>
Free Membership!!

## St Patrick's Day Celebration



Schenectady Hibernian Hall 1748 State St

Sunday March 17th, 2019

Farrell School of Irish Dance Schenectady Pipe Band Bailey and Quinn 2-5p Craig Agus Ceol 7-10pm

Serving:

Corned beef sandwiches, colcannon, Shepard's pie, Corned beef and cabbage dinners

Join us for food, music, raffles and fun

Open to the public at 12pm

\$5 donation at the door

#### SCHENECTADY New York

Use the Citizen Request Tracker on the city's website to report your concerns

http://www.cityofschenectady.com/RequestTracker.aspx

Potholes...snowplowing...codes and housing concerns... sidewalks...nuisance...street lighting...garbage pickup... water/sewer issues...and much more.