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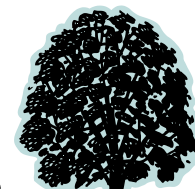
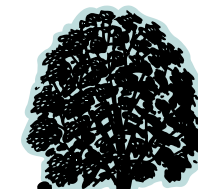
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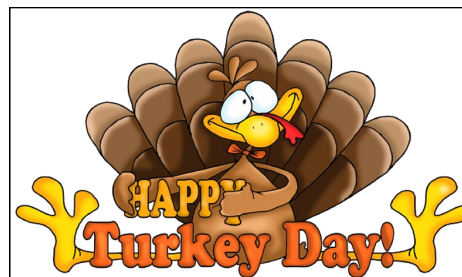
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THE WOODLAWN CONNECTION



November/December ~ 2015



In This Issue

President's Message

Woodlawn Park

The Golden Ear

Woodlawn Preserve

The Westside Story

Household Hints/Tips

Schenectady Recycles!

Community Event Pictures

Advertisements & More...

Woodlawn Neighborhood Meetings - 4th Wednesday of the month
7 PM at Hibernian Hall

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Calvary Tabernacle Church	Mohawk Progressive FCU
Camillo's Bistro	New Life Ministries
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Griswold Funeral Home	Starbucks
H&V Collision Center	Steve's Barber Shop
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Even more pics from our 2015 Annual Cookout...
THANK YOU all for coming out to this special annual event!



A Message From Neighborhood Association President:

Our annual Holiday dinner is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, December 16** at the **Kingsway Community**. Remember, the event is limited to immediate members of the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association only. You must sign-up at our November meeting please! **Seating is limited to 60 folks**. A waiting list will be established after. You may also contact Lou Grasso at 346-6775 or at his barber shop at 2506 Albany Street.

It is because of the numerous (too many to even mention!) volunteers to the Woodlawn community, we are perhaps the most proud neighborhood in the city. Please, if you are interested even in the smallest way; do not hesitate to stop in at our monthly meetings of the Woodlawn Park or Preserve folks at 6 pm or even to lend a hand at our numerous clean-up events. Contact names/numbers are listed throughout this booklet.

As we continue to lead by example, please offer our senior neighbors your time in helping clear their sidewalks and driveways from that dreaded snow fall that is certainly on its way. It is always a nice way of saying "Welcome To Woodlawn".

Finally, please remember to vote on **Election Day, Tuesday November 3rd**. **Polls are open from 6 AM until 9 PM**. If you need any information regarding your polling place or you are in need of a ride to the polling site, please contact the **Schenectady County Board of Elections at 377-2469**.

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

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



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You're A Member!"
All are welcome.
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details!**



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



Thank you Spero, Steve, Cole, Woodlawn volunteers and Union College students for painting the garbage containers on State Street and making them look beautiful with new signs which inform people to "Keep Woodlawn Clean". An extra thank you to Steve for transporting and leading the restoration of the containers.

Owners of the Albany Street Sunoco are good neighbors to Woodlawn. They have just acquired the Mobile Station Mini Market, also on Albany Street. Good luck to them and please support our local businesses.

Gaylord's Bar and Grill will be reopened by Joanne Flynn and William Reisinger, who are the new owners at the 1889 State Street location. Good luck to them and hopefully our Woodlawn neighbors will support them.

Did you know that Woodlawn has 4 schools and 2 golf courses? The CVS on State Street used to be Gabriel's Food Market. Woodlawn True Value used to be an ice cream parlor and post office. NDBG on Albany Street used to be a restaurant/bar, picnic and clam bake business. Stadium Golf Course used to be a minor league baseball stadium, home of the Schenectady Blue Jays, where Tommy Lasorda played baseball. This reporter used to work chasing baseballs for the Blue Jays and one day had a chance to ride on the team bus with Tommy Lasorda driving it. Did you know that the OTB on State Street used to be an A&P Grocery Store?

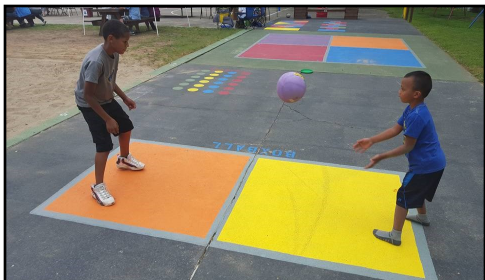
That's all for now. I'll be listening.

John Rose



Albany Street Sunoco owners pose outside with their newly acquired Mobile Station Mini Mart pictured in the background. Thank you both for your investment in Woodlawn.

**MORE PICTURES FROM
WOODLAWN NEIGHBORHOOD COOKOUT - 2015**



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Woodlawn Expands Recycling!

The SR! team is now expanding onto Frank, Roosevelt, Wilson, and Elliott, thanks to caring neighbors! If you wish to add your street to the project, call the number below and we will meet to get you started. Please volunteer! The more Ambassadors we have, the sooner we can cover all sections of Woodlawn. Other neighborhoods are now starting, and Woodlawn can continue its lead.

Another way to help your street improve the recycling rate is to serve as your street's contact for new neighbors. All you need to do is see that they receive copies of the City of Schenectady Recyclution booklet, recycling bin labels and current Waste Collection schedules. Call the number below to arrange for dropping off materials as you need them.



On November 20th, Woodlawn Elementary students will be participating in a Recycling Fair. They will be coming home with new recycling ideas. Please encourage them to implement these ideas in your homes and share with friends!

Reminders:

- To use 5-gallon pails as recycling bins: remove handles to avoid injury to waste collectors & trucks. Add the official sticker. Free pails are available through the number below. (These are not intended to replace the trash can.)
- Gift wrapping paper *is not* recyclable.

Every bit helps: adding recycling households raises Schenectady's recycling rate! For questions or to join our effort, you can please email us at: admin@schenectadyrecycles.org or call 313-2546.

Please include a clear address, phone or e-mail and we'll contact you.

For more information, go to www.cityofschenectady.com and <http://www.schenectadycountry.com/recycling>. Stickers, literature & collection schedules are also available at Woodlawn library and the OGS/SCAP Office at City Hall. **Thanks -- and Happy Holidays!**

Joyce Whitson and Roberta Farrell

PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY BUILD DAY @ WOODLAWN PARK



INSTALLATION OF A WHOLE NEW PLAYGROUND!

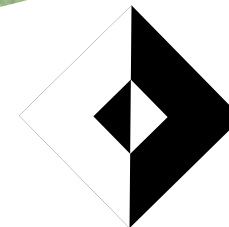
Come out to Woodlawn Park & help the community install a new playground. Miracle Playground and Pettinelli & Associates Design Firm will supervise the installation. The communi-

ty just needs to show up to help with assembly of the new playground equipment. Woodlawn Park is located on Kings Road & Ricci Avenue.

DATE: TBD - Check our Facebook page @ WoodlawnParkSNY for date/time and latest information...Sign will also be posted at park entrance and fliers will be out in the community.



Hope you
can join us!

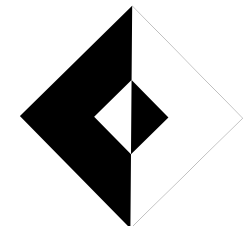


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WOODLAWN NEIGHBORHOOD COOKOUT - 2015!
FAMILIES...NEIGHBORS...AND LOCAL LEADERS
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Public Safety Notice
In case of emergency, call 911...

Officer Tim Higgins patrols the Woodlawn neighborhood from 4 pm to Midnight

Please email non-emergency questions/concerns to Office Higgins at thiggins@schenectadypd.com

Woodlawn Preserve

The City of Schenectady has formally recognized that the Woodlawn Preserve is a park, with all the protections that designation has to offer. If you look at the City of Schenectady website, you will now see the Woodlawn Preserve listed with all the other parks within the City. Thanks to Ed Kosior and all the City council members who voted in favor of reaffirming that status.

It's been a beautiful autumn in the Preserve. On October 10th the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club led a walk in the Preserve. It was a beautiful day and quite a few Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen. No new ATV damage was noted, thankfully, but our man Dave Berard is in there frequently. He has seen some motorbikes and did catch an ATV riding around on the dunes. So, traffic is less, but we are still seeing activity. The City has promised us some jersey barriers that are now in use but should be available shortly. We hope to use them to make egress from the railroad tracks even more difficult.

Our plan for the handicapped accessible trail to the deck overlooking the pond is in the hands of Chris Wallin, the city engineer. He has discussed it with Mayor McCarthy and Steve Strichman, and feels it is a rather straightforward project. We are looking forward to seeing this completed in the near future.

We have been taking advantage of the Albany Pine Bush Commission's (APBC) expertise and meeting with them on a more frequent basis. I've also met with Wendy Craney, Outreach Coordinator for the APBC. They will be printing up more brochures for us and are willing to help us with tabletop displays, etc. They have also offered the use of their educators to lead walks in the Preserve. The Pine Bush Discovery Center offers an ongoing schedule of activities for children and adults. **If you want to learn more about the Woodlawn Preserve, visit the Pine Bush Discovery Center!**

Watch for a new Meetup group for the Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve to promote upcoming activities within the Preserve. Information about this will be sent via email and also in the next issue of the Woodlawn Connection.

Please, if you see or hear anything unusual going on in the Preserve call the Schenectady Police non-emergency number at 630-0911. You can also email your non-emergency questions or concerns to Officer Tim Higgins (he patrols the Woodlawn neighborhood from 4 – 11) at thiggins@schenectadypd.com. The DEC can be reached at 1-877-457-5680 or call directly to our Region #4 reps Chris Valenty and Brian Wilson at 357-2047.

Janet Chen
 210-5439

HOUSEHOLD HINTS & HANDY TIPS

Looking at Ways to Better Insulate your Home this Season?

Handy Hint #1 - "Seal those Doors"

Address those doors that open to the outside. Gaps at the bottom of doors means loss of heat. Address that with a draft barrier to keep the warm air from escaping and the cold air from coming inside. You can find them at most home improvement stores. They come in many shapes, sizes and designs, from practical to decorative.

Handy Hint #1 - "Caulk your Windows"

When your windows were installed, they were sealed to the frame to help keep your house insulated. But over time, this seal breaks down and gaps form, making convenient escape routes for your heat. If these gaps between your window frame and windows exist, time to break out the caulk and seal them up. Don't know your way around a caulking gun? Just go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8cXoLV_seA and learn.

Handy Hint #1 - "Wrap your Hot Water Tank"

Proper insulation of your hot water tank can save on your winter energy costs as well. If you have a tank-style water heater, especially an older one, chances are the insulation is worn down. Buy an insulation blanket from your local hardware or home improvement store and give your hot water tank a nice warm hug. This should cut down on the energy needed to keep your hot water, hot. You may want to first heck with your utility to see if they offer water heater insulating blankets at low prices. Some utilities even install these at a low or no cost.

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Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

Officers:

President	Ed Kosiur	377-8810
Vice President	Lou Grasso	374-1623
Treasurer	Ann Sturges	377-6678
Recording Secretary	Rose Harrell	346-4665

District Vice Presidents:

East District	Terry VanValkenburgh	370-5803
West District	Jim LaPointe	377-2092

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter / Woodlawn Park	Spero Zoulas	331-0929
Newsletter Ads	Cole Denning	227-4085
Woodlawn Preserve	Janet Chen	210-5439
Social/Refreshment	Mary Roy	374-2821
Welcoming	Camy Wyckoff	370-5311

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

Woodlawn Neighborhood Association
2506 Albany Street,
Schenectady, NY 12304

MEETING SCHEDULE ~ 2015

General Neighborhood Association meeting - 4th Wednesday of every month at 7 PM @ the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, 1748 State Street. *(No general meeting in Aug/Dec/Jan)*

Woodlawn Park & Woodlawn Preserve committee meetings - 4th Wednesday of every month @ Hibernian Hall (1748 State Street). **Meetings start at 6 PM.**

www.woodlawnneighborhood.org

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#DiscoverWoodlawn Initiative @ Woodlawn Park State Street Corridor Beautification Project



THANK YOU to Community & Union College Volunteers for sprucing up our State Street corridor with a pop of green and new signage on our trash receptacles!



Terry Van Valkenburgh
Funeral Director

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

Abandoned homes are a cause for alarm in neighborhoods. Many, including the mayoral candidates, voice their concern on this subject.

Recently, my cause for alarm was raised when I was approached by National Grid regarding a home in my neighborhood. They asked whether I had recently seen the home owner. Their reason for asking is that they had turned off the house electricity and wanted to be let in to shut down the gas supply. I answered that I hadn't seen the neighbor for over a month but someone had recently seen him elsewhere. I asked NG whether the police could let them in. The answer was yes, but it's a lengthy process and involves getting a search warrant.

Concerned about the possibility of vandalism, squatters, broken water pipes, not to mention a gas explosion, I trekked over to city hall. The city's Office of General Services noted my concern and recorded my name and phone number.

By the way, if one suspects that a home is a candidate for abandonment, there is a red flag. The payment of taxes is public record. Many abandoned homes, including the one in my neighborhood, have overdue taxes. City hall has the records.

I was recently asked whether there is a city ordinance regarding roaming cats. While at city hall, I inquired and the Office of General Services told me there is none.

Till next time...



**Rendering of Woodlawn Park's New Tots' Choice 2-Deck
 System for Toddler Area of Playground**

**Schenectady East Rotary presents \$3,000
 check to Woodlawn Park Redevelopment Committee**

Woodlawn Park

Summer Neighborhood Cookout...Playground Install Day...Fall Rake Day

Fall is here and the leaves will soon be falling. *A tentative date is set for our annual fall rake day in the park - Saturday, November 7th at 9 am (rain-date of Sunday, November 8th).* The date is tentative given the status of the Playground Community Build day at the park. Updates on these two events will be posted on our facebook page, so please keep us in mind if you would like to help with either of these park event days.

You may have noticed if you've been at the park - we have a **completely renovated bathroom**. The unisex bathroom is available to the community during park events and officially got its unveiling at the summer cookout in August. Speaking of the cookout, many thanks to the volunteers who staffed the food service lines and attended to the community tables and auction raffles. And thank you Woodlawn community for coming out and bringing your dishes to share. We set a great attendance milestone with over 200 people in attendance. Check out the pictures included in this edition of the Woodlawn Connection. We'd also like to thank Frank Hackert for his \$40 donation and Anita Paley for her \$100 towards the park's redevelopment efforts!

Trustco Bank will soon be finalizing their renovations at the park and will cap that off with a volunteer day. We're still coordinating the date and details - they'll either be volunteering on our rake day or during the playground installation day. While there, Trustco will hold a press day to promote their partnership with the city of Schenectady and the good work they have done to give back to the community.

Playground Coming Soon: We're getting closer to our Community Build Day! The city just completed the footprint mapping for the new playground areas which will be just beyond the current swing sets. The old playground pieces which no longer served their purpose were taken out and trees were removed where the new playground areas will be added. They will soon excavate those areas, digging down one foot to add post footings for the new playgrounds and the protective, pressed-wood, mulch carpet to be laid. Once the excavation is complete, we will hold our community build day. *We hope to shoot for a November 7th or 14th community build day - this will be contingent on readiness.* Please check our facebook page periodically to find out the date. We will also post information on the date at the park's entrance and fliers will go out in the neighborhood. *We hope you can join us to give a helping hand.*

We'd also like to extend a **great big THANK YOU** to the Schenectady East Rotary! Their pancake breakfast fundraiser and matching grant yielded a **\$3,000 donation towards the toddler section of the new playground**. This section is funded by this great organization AND through your community support dollars from our fundraising events. The rest of the new playground is funded through the **City of Schenectady (over \$40,000 worth)!** *So thank you too to the city staff and elected officials who spearheaded this!*

Lastly, we've begun preparations for our **Annual Pasta Dinner Fundraiser**. Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, January 13th @ Hibernian Hall** (dinner service between 5:30-7 pm).

Spero Zoulas - Chair of Woodlawn Park Redevelopment Committee
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WoodlawnParkSNY
WoodlawnPark411@gmail.com

Notre Dame~Bishop Gibbons School

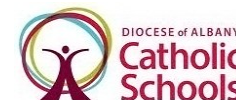
The 42 graduating seniors from the Class of 2014 earned over \$5.1 million in Scholarships and Grants



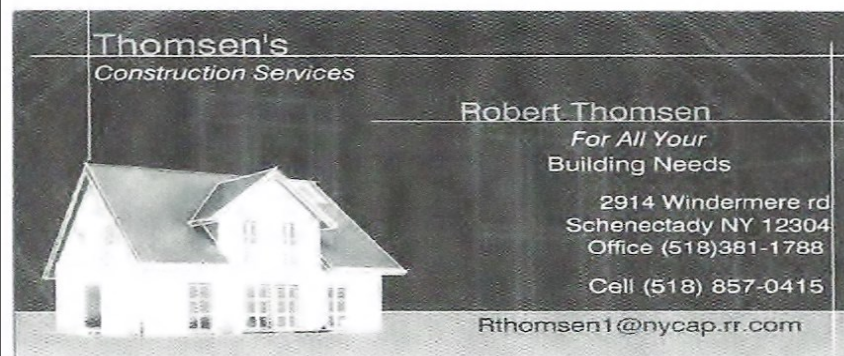
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Notable Days for November & December...

November

- 1 - Daylight Savings - fall back
- 3 - Election Day
- 11 - Veterans Day
- 19 - Great American Smokeout
- 26 - Thanksgiving Day



December

- 6 - Chanukah
- 22 - Winter Solstice (shortest day)
- 25 - Christmas
- 26 - Kwanzaa
- 31 - New Year's Eve



**REUSE
REDUCE
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2015 WASTE COLLECTION DATES WOODLAWN

District #1
Woodlawn—Central Park

November
4, 12, 19, 30
December
7, 14, 21, 29
January
Dates in next issue

District #2
Crosstown to Brandywine

November
5, 13, 20
December
1, 8, 15, 22, 30
January
Dates in next issue



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