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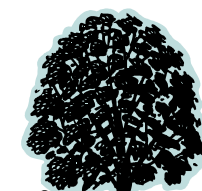
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THE WOODLAWN CONNECTION



February/March 2014



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How to Advocate**

FREE PUBLICATION

Recycle—Share With Your Neighbors

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A Publication of

The Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

www.woodlawnneighborhood.org

Where's The Newsletter?

In the months of February and March a
FREE copy of *The Woodlawn Connection* will
be available at the following locations:

Albany Street Sunoco	Maurice's Sandwich Shop
Beth Ann Kayser, CPA	Mings
Blue Ribbon Restaurant	Mohawk Progressive FCU
Calvary Tabernacle Church	Plaines
Collision Experts	Roc's Hairstyling
Dolce Vita	St Paul the Apostle Church
Ernie D's	Stanford United Methodist Church
Fantastic Sam's	Starbucks
Gallo's Florist	Steve's Barber Shop
Gaylord's	Subway Shop
G & M Auto	Sun Fungs
Grasso's Barber Shop	Sunoco Food/Gas Mart
Griswold Funeral Home	Uncle Sam's Candy
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King Cork	Woodlawn Library
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Schenectady East Rotary Club

Breakfast meetings on Wednesdays
7:30 - 8:30 AM

Ancient Order of Hibernians
1748 State Street Schenectady, NY 12304
374-8891

*The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal
of service as a basis of worthy enterprise.*

WOODLAWN – The West Side Story

By Marcel

Greetings, from the western side of Woodlawn. This is a new column which will discuss issues/items pertinent to the Woodlawn quality of life in general, but with a focus on the area of Woodlawn defined by Rt. 7 down State Street to Fehr Avenue and across to Watt Street.

My reasons for writing this column are:

I've lived in this area for ~ 12 years and find that most people in the area do not know that we are part of the Woodlawn community and are unaware that they can share in all of its benefits. The Woodlawn Park & the Woodlawn Reserve are two examples. Check out www.woodlawnneighborhood.org

The Woodlawn Neighborhood Association meetings are held the 2nd Wed of every month at the Woodlawn Reformed Church, 1858 State Street (not the month of Dec). I would encourage my fellow “Westerners” to attend these meetings. The association meeting is a vibrant gathering place with lots of information dispensed by various local officials and Woodlawn committee volunteers.

From my perspective, our area, though still a great place to live, is showing the common strain of urban life (abandoned homes, property code violations, increased graffiti and drug related crimes, etc.). I'll attempt to investigate what the local agencies are doing to help us with these issues.

We are fortunate in that we have many businesses within walking distance of our homes. A prosperous business community fosters strong neighborhoods. Each issue, I'll be presenting the comments of one of our local business leaders. By the way, it's good to see that **Camillo's Bistro, 1490 State Street** has opened at the same site that was the former Camillo's Lounge and is operated by a member of the Camillos family. Stop in for a drink and fine food and say hello to Cheryl.

I'm glad that part of Dartmouth Street has been paved after years of neglect – I just wonder why the city didn't pave the section from Albany St to State St (another 400 yards) much to the chagrin of those residents living there.

Have you ever wondered what happens to our complaints to the city, i.e. neighbors not mowing their lawns for extended periods of time, loud music, etc. Perhaps, we can have a city official explain the process to us.

Till next time...

A Message From Neighborhood Association President:

Inequities in State Aid for the Schenectady City School District

Our school district is one of the poorest districts in NYS, yet we receive only 54% of full funding. Meanwhile, many districts, including much wealthier districts are receiving much higher percentage of aid. Without your help, our schools will face more reductions to programs and services for students. Becoming an advocate for education is not as hard as you might think. The only prerequisite is a strong desire to stand up for our students and our schools.

Advocate with our elected NYS Representatives. Write a personal letter to them, send an email or simply make a phone call to their office.

Assemblyman Phil Steck, LOB 820, Albany, NY 12248 455-5931
Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, LOB 829A, Albany, NY 455-5197
Senator Hugh Farley, LOB 711, Albany, NY 12247 455-2181
Senator Tkaczyk, LOB 311, Albany, NY 12247 455-2470

For additional information: www.schenectady.k12.ny.us

Reminder that applications for **Enhanced (Senior) School Tax Relief (STAR) for 2014 are due by March 1, 2014** in the City of Schenectady. The 2012 income for senior resident owner(s) is required as part of the process.

Renewal forms are available in City Hall, Room 8 or at www.tax.ny.gov
If you have questions please call the **assessor's office at 382-5075**.

Please continue to support our local small businesses in the City of Schenectady! As noted in our newsletter, several new folks have “Opened Their Doors For Business”. Stop in and welcome them into our neighborhood.

As we continue to lead by example and offer our senior neighbors your time in helping clear their sidewalks and driveways. It is always a nice way of saying “Welcome To Woodlawn”.

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. Our next general meeting will be **Wednesday, March 12 at 7 PM. Bring a friend to our meeting, they are always welcome!**

Ed Kosiur—President, Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

Reduce . . . Reuse . . . Recycle . . .

The **Woodlawn neighborhood** has been selected to serve as a lead community to expand recycling in the City of Schenectady. The neighborhood already has one of the best recycling rates in the city, and these leaders welcome all residents into the recycling trend!

To get started, all you need are two plastic bins or garbage cans with lids (available at hardware -- stores), and stickers from the city. See our website and the City and County websites .

PAPER recycling bins get a **blue sticker** and include: mixed paper (mail, paper bags, greeting cards, catalogs, calendars, paperback books, etc); thin cardboard (shoe boxes, cereal boxes, toilet paper rolls); newspapers (with ads and inserts); & dry corrugated cardboard.

CONTAINER bins need a **yellow sticker**. These bins can be used for: tin and aluminum (cans and plates); glass bottles and jars; plastic bottles and jugs (# 1 or 2 plastics); and milk cartons and drink boxes.

Containers should be rinsed clean before they're put in the bins. The city isn't recycling yogurt and margarine tubs and other #3-7 plastics. However, to recycle them, and reduce items in the waste stream, you can wash them and take them to one of the city's free transfer stations. These are on Weaver Street by Edison and Broadway, or on Moyer Road in Rotterdam. The Hetcheltown Road county facility accepts them, also. Consider annual membership (Jan. to Jan.) if you have waste materials that are not curbside items.

Recycling helps the environment by reducing the amount of trash that ends up in our landfills. But it's also good for the city's bottom line: Schenectady gets paid about \$15 a ton for its recyclables, taking in about \$40,000 a year. And that's with just an estimated 8 percent of households recycling paper and containers!

Schenectady Recycles! is made up of concerned residents who want to improve the recycling rate of the city of Schenectady. We'll be using a combination of public education, incentives, multi-media, outreach to community organizations and schools, and working with city staff and residents. We're interested in hearing from you. For posted information, questions or suggestions, or to join our effort, e-mail us. For Woodlawn Project, please e-mail **Roberta Farrell**, (Woodlawn Lead), at Schenectady Recycles! admin@schenectadyrecycles.org

Schenectady Recycles! website: www.schenectadyrecycles.org

City Waste Collection videos, "Recyclution" & twitter! <http://www.cityofschenectady.com>

Phone - 382-5144 www.schenectadycounty.com/recycling

Contributors to this issue: **Gillian Scott**, **Nancy Peterson**, and **Roberta Farrell**



Woodlawn Preserve

We are looking forward to the spring and all its glory – in the meantime, we can only dream of what lies ahead and reflect on what we've accomplished over the past season.

We were able to get the posts installed for the school garden before the end of the season, and are busy making lists of shrubs and flowers to be planted in the spring. We are focusing on native host and nectar plants to attract butterflies. The spring will also see the DEC come back to measure the depth and water quality of the pond for our fish-stocking project. Along with that, plans are being drawn up for a handicapped access point at the ponds edge.

A trail map brochure is now available in the kiosks or at **Lou Grasso's Barber-shop**. Thanks to **Arden Lawand** (**Arden Lawand Graphic Design**) for donating her graphic artist skills, also to **Alan Schroeder** (**Earth Arts Photography**) for his permission to use the photo that graces the front and back cover.

John Watrous was in touch with the DOT concerning a bridge and/or passageway for animals. He was informed that Phase 1 of the project will consider neighborhoods, and that this will be reconsidered in Phase 2.

The possibility exists for an environmental mitigation project in the Preserve, which would remove some of the invasive species (phragmites) that have taken over large areas of the Preserve, and plant some native species that would be of benefit to the fish and waterfowl. We have been in contact with the environmental consulting firm that was contracted for the project and are excited about the benefits this will offer.

Congratulations to **Barbara Blanchard** for being awarded the City of Schenectady's highest honor, the title of **Schenectady Patroon**. **Barbara** was one of the founding members of the **Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve**, and continued attending all our meetings even while in a wheelchair. She was a tireless advocate and always took the time to listen and give positive feedback. Any meeting or event she attended was not just to show face, but to pitch in and help further a cause. Her active participation is sorely missed.

You can while away the winter hours by visiting us online at <http://friendsofwoodlawnpreserve.org/> or on Facebook (Schenectady's Woodlawn Pine Bush Preserve), or contact us at Friendswp@gmail.com. In the meantime, stay warm, and keep dreaming of the spring!

As always, if you see or hear of any activity within the Preserve that is suspicious or illegal please report to **Schenectady PD non-emergency number** at **382-5263**. To report illegal poaching or hunting our **DEC officer** is **Jason DeAngelis**, he can be reached at **357-2047**.

Janet Chen
210-5439



The Golden Ear—By John Rose

This Is A Gossip Column



Thanks to everyone for attending the Christmas Sing along at Kingsway Nursing Home. It was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone. A special “thanks” to the three Penguins that joined us (Steve, Spero and Chad)!

The “Mailbox Bar” that was located at the corner of McDonald Ave and Kings Rd has a new owner. It is now called the “**Kings Inn**” and features deli sandwiches, with 8 oz of in house cooked roast beef, turkey and ham sandwiches, Sarrett’s hot dogs, soup and homemade chili. They do have take out. They also have Lotto games.

CFC is now open for business (the former KFC), **1712 State ST.** They specialize in fried chicken.

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2/3 cup sugar
1 cup chopped walnuts

2 egg whites
1 cup chocolate chips

Beat eggs whites until stiff. Add sugar to egg whites and gently fold in nuts and chocolate chips. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Drop batter by teaspoon on foil lined cookie sheets. Place cookies in oven and turn oven off. Leave cookies in oven until oven is cooled or overnight.

Makes approximately 3 dozen. Enjoy!!

Until next time, I will be listening!

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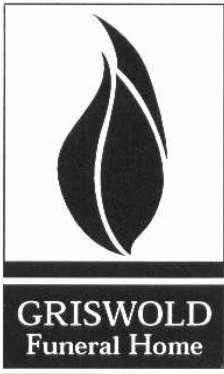
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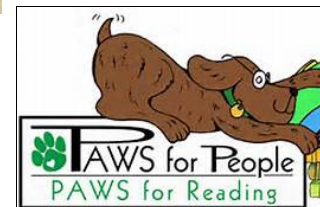


Schenectady County Public Library-Woodlawn Branch

*2 Sanford Street *Schenectady* Phone: 386-2248*



Book Club—Wednesday, February 26, 2 PM



Sign up to read with our therapy

Every Thursday-3:45 PM

HOURS

Monday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday - Thursday 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Saturday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday & Sunday closed



WOODLAWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

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

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS

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

Committee Chairpersons

Newsletter	Ed Kosiur	377-8810
Newsletter Ads	Cole Denning	227-4085
Woodlawn Park	Spero Zoules	331-0929
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 committees, call the Chairperson or mail them to:

Woodlawn Neighborhood Association
2506 Albany Street,
Schenectady, NY 12304.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2014

General Membership meeting at 7 PM on the 2nd Wednesday of every month in the Fellowship Hall, Woodlawn Reformed Church, 1858 State Street. (No general meeting in December)

Woodlawn Park and Woodlawn Preserve meetings held on the 4th Wednesday of every month at the Schenectady Hibernians', 1748 State Street. Park starts at 6:30 PM. Preserve follows

Life is exciting!

Let us help!

We look forward

to serving our

Woodlawn Neighbors!



Kim Rainey
Branch Officer

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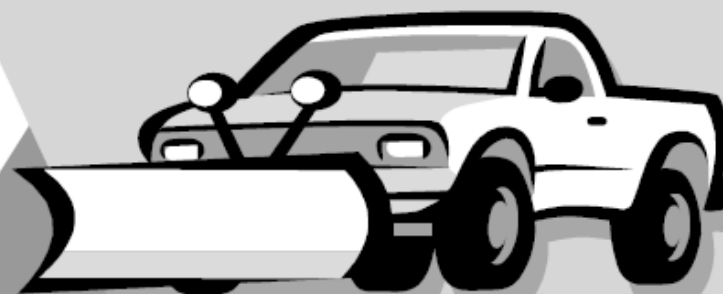
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Woodlawn Park

The End to a Momentous Year!!!

As the year comes to a close, it's hard not to reflect on what an amazing year we've had at Woodlawn Park. Although we have more to do, the transformation of the park cannot go unnoticed as area residents and children come to the park with greater frequency and express their appreciation to volunteers.

None of this work could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. This year saw the completion of the nonviable pool filling (to become a common grassy area in the spring, summer and fall months and an ice skating area in the winter months), the taking down of inner fencing which was a breeding ground for a decade's worth of vine growth (now allowing for an open line of sight and pedestrian way throughout the park), the building of park benching and planter boxes with a variety of plantings and bushes to make the park more inviting, new vibrant colors with the painting and stenciling of the basketball poles & backboards and painting of the swing sets and light poles, the full restoration of power to the park building, and the wonderful addition of the Area of Reflection, which drew out local media outlets as Mayor McCarthy honored those we remember and the work of our dedicated volunteers.

In looking ahead to the coming year, our group will be working on the following initiatives for the park. We will continue our collaboration with Capital District Community Garden to assess the viability of adding a community garden just off the park. We will also work with the city of Schenectady to advocate for the repaving and lining of the park's basketball court as well as add one to two picnic tables and a new park entrance sign. We will also continue our collaboration with the city's grant writer in applying for appropriate grants for the park's redevelopment (e.g. new playground area, redevelopment of park building, and other park amenities and infrastructure needs). Additionally, our group will be busy improving the park's appeal with the addition of pavement games for children, a platform staging area, a new series of arbors along the park entryway, as well as the addition of the new grassy common area to the park and other exciting things to come.

All of our progress, particularly during the past year, would not be possible without the hard work and collaboration of everyone involved. We would like to extend our thanks to Mayor McCarthy and the staff at City Hall, the staff from ReTree Schenectady, the County of Schenectady, Bethany Pignatello and the Home Depot, Sid and Doris Brown and the Woodlawn Reformed Church, Kingsway Community, Blue Ribbon Family Restaurant, Walmart, Naeem at Sunoco Gas, the Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve, Sue and Eva from Monograms Plus, our local Stewarts shop...and many others listed on our facebook page (www.facebook.com/WoodlawnParkSNY) and park fliers. But most of all, we could not be where we are without the dedication of our park VOLUNTEERS.

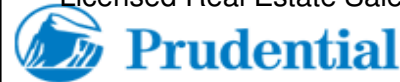
Once again, we thank the community for its continued support.

Warm regards,

Spero Zoulas - Chair of Woodlawn Park Redevelopment Committee
Woodlawn Park ~ located at intersection of Kings Road & Ricci Avenue

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2014 WASTE COLLECTION DATES WOODLAWN

District #1

Woodlawn—Central Park

February

7, 14, 24

March

3, 10, 17, 24, 31

April

7, 14, 21, 28

District #2

Crosstown to Brandywine

February

3, 10, 18, 25

March

4, 11, 18, 25

April

1, 8, 15, 22, 29



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