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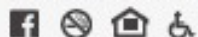
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September / October ~ 2016



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HAPPENING

CANCELLED
WOODLAWN PARK
SEPTEMBER 17TH

September 17th...See page 16 for further details...

WHAT'S INSIDE?

President's Message ~ Woodlawn Park
The Golden Ear ~ Woodlawn Preserve
Westside Story ~ Community Event Pictures
Household Hints/Tips
Advertisements & More...

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

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Camillo's Bistro	Plaines
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Gallo's Florist	St. Paul the Apostle Church
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A MESSAGE FROM WNA PRESIDENT

Summer's End

With summer coming to an end, I want to once again thank our numerous volunteers and neighbors who continue to do fine work in our neighborhood and parks. Special thank you to the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady** and **SICM** lunch program for providing summer activities and free lunch to our youth at Woodlawn Park.

Reminder...school begins on **Wednesday, September 7th**. Please be aware of school busses and students who may be walking to and from school. Elementary schools begin classes at 8 AM.



We need your help to improve the City of Schenectady!

The City of Schenectady receives over \$2 million in entitlement funding from the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) each year, based on population and socio-economic factors. This funding is used to support local community development, housing, and anti-poverty programs. Schenectady is in the process of completing a HUD Community Needs Assessment to help identify the city's priority needs and opportunities. Information gathered through Community Roundtables and this Community Survey will be used to develop a 2-year Action Plan.

The survey has 30 questions and should take 10-15 minutes. All responses are anonymous and every comment received will be considered and recorded. Thank you in advance for your input and please encourage your friends, co-workers, and family to take this survey!

Go to: <http://cityofscheneectady.com/195/Development>

Reminder...our association meetings are 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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The Golden Ear—By John Rose

This Is A Gossip Column



Paving on Albany Street has begun from Van Zandt Street to Henry Street. This also includes handicap access corners. Drive carefully. I do.

There are a lot of volunteers at Woodlawn Park picking up trash every day and all year round. Thank you volunteers and please help them by picking up after yourselves. I do.

Also, there are four pieces of adult exercise equipment at the park which provide at least 7 exercise routines. Instructions are on each piece of equipment. Try them out. I don't.

The third or fourth Friday of each month, there is a car show in the parking lot of the old IHop, across the street from Bumpy's. Check it out! I do.

Need a handyman? Call Bill Gosier at 377-0136. I do.

The best organizing volunteer in Woodlawn is Spero Zoulas, chairman of the Woodlawn Park Committee. Thank you for all you do Spero!

Thank you to Kingsway Nursing Home for advertising with our newsletter and donating salads for our picnic. Thank you for also sending us your best chefs for our annual neighborhood cookout at Woodlawn Park.

We would like to thank city resident Sid Brown for his volunteer work at Woodlawn Park and the City Rose Garden. Sid is also the owner of Brown's Brewery in Troy and a former Schenectady Gazette photographer. Thank you Sid!

We would also like to thank the volunteers at the Woodlawn Preserve, including Dave Berard, Cole Denning, Janet Chen, and many of the others who offer their time to help. Thank you for all of your hard work.

We would like to thank our President of the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, who fights for our neighborhood every day. Thank you Ed Kosiur!!

I would like to recommend one of the best Italian Restaurants right here in Woodlawn, Dolce Vita. They not only offer the finest Italian cuisine, they also have excellent entertainment. Make your reservations now. I do.

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

John Rose

WOODLAWN – The West Side Story

By Marcel

Hello once more from Western Woodlawn. I'm happy to report that the Watt Street hole (near the Crosstown Plaza) has been repaired. I'd describe this as a sink hole with a riser that would bring a smile onto every skateboarder's face. Drivers would risk moving over into the oncoming traffic lane to avoid the jarring consequence to both driver and vehicle.

Several months back, I had used the new City of Schenectady web site to report this issue. Due to the danger associated with this hole, I feel that it should have been repaired in a more timely fashion. While I find the new web site awesome, I still wonder if an in your face presence is better than the typed word when presenting a concern to the city.

Anyways, with the new web site, one can:

- Seek city employment
- Make on-line payments of taxes (although there are small nominal fees varying by payment method)
- Request permits and forms (though it wasn't clear on how to get a building permit). Looks like this is still a work in progress.
- Get access to city departments, mayor's office and city boards and commissions
- Access a slew of city services including the reporting of a variety of concerns
- Get a list of community events
- And much more...

Please visit www.cityofschenectady.com for additional information.

Please note: when one files a concern, one must establish an account and provide an email address and telephone number. This is required so that the city can provide feedback. Some folks might think that this is another intrusion by big brother. My feeling is that in this day and age, so much information is out there on each of us individuals that one's email address is not that sacred.



Till next time....

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PENGUIN SPOTTING IN WOODLAWN

Woodlawn took home the 2nd place prize for Community Vitality for the Schenectady Smiles Photo Contest, where residents were encouraged to showcase their community pride through pictures.



(2nd Place Winner for Community Vitality - "Penguin Sighting at Woodlawn Park")

The winning photographs are displayed at City Hall.

Schenectady Smiles promotes all the good stuff in our community.

A Smiles Pep Rally was held on August 17th at City Hall to showcase Schenectady's community pride.

MAP OF AMERICA VOLUNTEER DAY @ WOODLAWN PARK

Thank you to the volunteers who created a colorful addition to the park!



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 them or mail:

Woodlawn Neighborhood Association
2506 Albany Street,
Schenectady, NY 12304

MEETING SCHEDULE ~ 2016

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.**

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**2016 ANNUAL WOODLAWN NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION COOKOUT!**



*Many thanks to all who came out to make this
year's cookout a great success!!*

It was a really hot summer, but we had a few cool activities in the Preserve that helped us get through. June 25th was our Second Annual Fishing Day; July 10th was Invasive Species mapping led by Steve Young, Chief Botanist with the Natural Heritage Program; and August 7th Steve again led 'Learn 10... Trees'. Well, we learned more than 10 trees and some wildflowers as well. Overall, it looks like passive activity is up in the Preserve, and motorized vehicle use, although not entirely absent, is down. Good news!

We still have a few pending projects:

- 1) The \$50,000 grant money obtained for us by Phil Steck will be going towards a survey of the Preserve, and the mayor indicated to me in a conversation that the specs went to purchasing to be drawn up and will then go out to bid. We will continue to follow up on any progress. Leftover monies will be used to strengthen the barriers to prevent motorized vehicle activity.
- 2) The mitigation project is slowly moving forward. As I write this, the consultant for the project has made contact with city attorney Carl Falatico and has been verbally reassured that the city is on board. What is needed now is a written agreement, which is being worked on, and then once the permit is in place it may be possible for the phragmites eradication to begin by October. Some of the money from this project will also be used for a barrier system; we are hoping to coordinate the two projects in this area so we have a consistent and well-designed barrier system in place.
- 3) The handicapped accessible trail from the end of the asphalt path to the deck overlooking the pond: in a conversation with the mayor, he indicated this is in the works with the department who is handling the road resurfacing. I still need to determine where we are exactly on the list. I am hoping this is done before the fall. For anyone who has the blessed ability to walk, we know how delightful the view is from the deck on a crisp fall day with the beautiful autumn colors reflected in the pond. We really want to be able to share this with those whose mobility is compromised. In 2015, the FWP commissioned and paid for a plan that was drawn up by Paul Olund, R.L.A of the Environmental Design Partnership, LLP, which the city has on file.

Steve Rice, Ph.D, professor of biology at Union College and Commissioner with the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, sought and received permission to continue his vernal pond research in the Preserve for another year.

Want to help the Preserve? It doesn't have to be a direct monetary donation – if you're buying from Amazon.com, just use the website smile.amazon.com and there's a drop down list is of charities Amazon will help support (We're in there! Look for **Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve!**). Every purchase you make will help put dollars into our account. It doesn't cost you any more, but every dollar they give us counts for so much. Please remember to support us! *(con't on next page)*

The **Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve** hosted a **Learn 10 Walk** where local expert, Steve Young - chief botanist with the Natural Heritage Program, educated participants on a multitude of trees. The Preserve group also hosted a day where participants mapped the preserve's invasive plants to help complete an invasive species management plan.



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Back-to-School Basketball and Chess "Happening"
Woodlawn Park ~ Saturday, September 17th
8:30 am – 4 pm



THE WOODLAWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION is hosting a *combined Basketball and Chess "Happening" at the newly repaved basketball court in Woodlawn Park.*

This competition will be for same sex and/or coed teams of players separated by three grade divisions. Teams will compete in both 3-on-3 basketball games and 3 versus 3 chess matches starting at 8:30 AM (grades K-2), 10:30 AM (grades 3-5) and 1:00 PM (grades 6-8).

An afternoon BBQ will be available starting at 11:30 AM.

Free entry to the first team to register from each school for each division. Each member of the up to four team members (including one substitute) will be given a "goodies bag" of school supplies. A trophy will be given to the winning team's school for each division and the school that collects the most points overall. Teams interested in participating should call Bill Montross (203) 500-5243 or email him at whatllc@hotmail.com.

We are also looking for any organization that might want to contribute supplies for the "goodies bag". Please contact Cathi Rapisarda thru the WNA phone.



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

Officer Albert Rivera patrols the Woodlawn neighborhood from 4 pm to Midnight

Please email non-emergency questions/concerns to Office Rivera at arivera@schenectadypd.com

Also - Buy A Bag From Hannaford. "Hannaford Helps" donates \$1.00 from the sale of each reusable shopping bag (bags cost \$2.29) to **Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve** for this month. Receive a little good karma and help them help us.

If you want to learn more about the Woodlawn Preserve, start at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center and explore some of their 18 trails. They have over 3000 acres of restored pine barren environment. Chosen as a National Natural Landmark for its extraordinary sand dunes (Woodlawn has the tallest sand dune), the APB is also a New York State Unique area, Bird Conservation Area, and a National Audubon Society Important Bird area.

If you see or hear anything unusual going on in the Preserve, call the Schenectady Police non-emergency number at 630-0911. 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



Does your street or block need a Recycling Spring Tonic?
Contact schenectadyrecycles@gmail.com

Schenectady Recycles article will be back in the next issue of the Woodlawn Connection.

Household Hints & Handy Tips

Helpful Hints for the Fall Season...

Handy Hint #1 - "Clear out your Gutters"



After leaves have fallen, clean gutters and downspouts, flush them with water, inspect joints, and tighten brackets. Clogged gutters are one of the major causes of ice dams. Replace old or damaged gutters with new ones that have built-in leaf guards.

Handy Hint #2 - "Caulk is your Best Friend"



Caulk around windows and doorframes to prevent heat from escaping. Structure openings can cause water to get in and freeze, resulting in cracks and mold buildup. Sealing openings is one of the least expensive maintenance jobs.

Handy Hint #3 - "Reverse those Ceiling Fans"

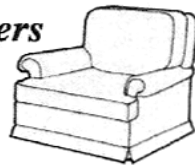


An easy one for forget! Change the direction of your ceiling fan to create an upward draft that redistributes warm air from the ceiling. Also, clean your humidifiers regularly during the heating season. Bacteria and spores can develop in a dirty water tank resulting in unclean moisture misting out into your room.

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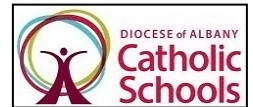
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Recreational & Inclusion Project Nears Completion

This year was another major turning point for Woodlawn Park. With two \$10,000 grants each from The Carlilian Foundation and The Wright Foundation and a private donation of \$15,000 from an anonymous and former Woodlawn resident who used the park as a kid, we were able to complete the resurfacing and relining of the basketball court, add new fencing and privacy screens (to include a neat graphic welcoming visitors to the park), two handicap accessible ramps and an array of exercise stations for park goers. The grant also called for the addition of a swinging bench, but the funding was used with the other work. However, the redevelopment committee will work to add this last element within the next year. The goal of this project is to complement the other redevelopment within the park with elements geared for all ages in mind. Now parents, elders, young adults and disabled can access and utilize a more inclusive Woodlawn Park while enjoying their visit to the park.

Summer Youth Program

Thank you to the Schenectady County's Youth Bureau for sponsoring another year of activities at the park for our kids. Together with the oversight of the Schenectady Boys & Girls Club staff and cooperation of the Schenectady Inner City Ministry's free lunch program, kids were offered a chance to partake in some structured fun and learning while making new friends. We appreciate all the support and time devoted to our local youth.

Minions Movie Night

The short-lived rain didn't put a hamper on things as families sat underneath the park pavilion to wait it out prior to the Minions Invasion into Woodlawn Park. The summer movie night was back at the park this year capping off one of our more popular family events in the park. Children played, enjoyed some free giveaways and ate popcorn while watching Stuart, Kevin and Bob overtake the world in dominating form. We hope to bring another movie night to the park next summer.

Map of America

The volunteers of our committee have completed another addition to the park for kids and families to enjoy. A 14' X 18' map of America was painted on the surface of the park's central gathering area. Nameplates of the 50 states were also made for youth of the summer program to learn their states.

Heading into Fall

With the summer season winding down, another year also culminates with the continued resurgence of our neighborhood park. Abandoned, graffiti-ridden, and overgrown of vines and litter six years ago, our park has transformed into one of the city's nicest places to visit for families and youth. Please help us continue this momentum in the future years to come by donating items for our annual garage sale, partaking in events and using the park respectfully. More development will continue to come as long as we can count on your support!

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

Spero Zoulas - Chair of Woodlawn Park Redevelopment Committee

Notable Days for September & October...

September

5th - Labor Day
7th - School begins in Schenectady
11th - 911 Remembrance & Grandparents Day
22nd - Autumn Equinox

October

1st - International Day for Elderly
10th - Columbus Day
22nd - Make a Difference Day
31st - Halloween



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2016 WASTE COLLECTION DATES WOODLAWN

District #1 Woodlawn—Central Park

September
7, 14, 21, 28
October
5, 13, 20, 27
November
3, 14, 21, 30

District #2 Crosstown to Brandywine

September
8, 15, 22, 29
October
6, 14, 21, 28
November
4, 15, 22



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