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THE WOODLAWN CONNECTION



March 2013



"Inequities In State Aid"

Why Should You Advocate,
How to Advocate

In This
Issue

President's Message

Schenectady County
Public Library

Woodlawn Park

The Golden Ear

Woodlawn Preserve

Advertisements & More...

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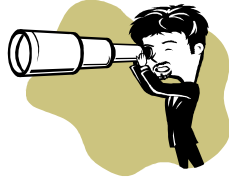
A Publication of

The Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

www.woodlawnneighborhoodassociation.com

Where's The Newsletter?

In the months of March and April 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	Singh Auto
Fantastic Sam's	Stanford United Methodist Church
Gallo's Florist	Starbucks
Gaylord's	State Street Station
G & M Auto	Steve's Barber Shop
Grasso's Barber Shop	Subway Shop
Griswold Funeral Home	Sun Fungs
Hibernians	Uncle Sam's Candy
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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.*

OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS WE THANK YOU!!



www.facebook.com/WoodlawnParkSNY

To learn more about the park's redevelopment efforts and events,
visit our facebook page

A Message From Neighborhood Association President:

SAVE THE DATE



Please mark your calendar for our **Annual Woodlawn Garage Sale**, scheduled for the weekend of **May 18 & 19**. Last year was one of our largest events ever with nearly 200 homes participating! 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 **\$10.00**. Remember, you must have a permit issued by the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association in order to participate in this very popular event.

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.

See page 11 for community forum flyer, please join us!

Assemblyman Phil Steck, LOB 819, Albany, NY 12248 455-5931

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, LOB 833, 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

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 13 at 7 PM**. **Bring a friend to our meeting, they are always welcome!**

Ed Kosiur—President, Woodlawn Neighborhood Association
President, Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

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Woodlawn Preserve

The promise of spring is just around the corner and with it comes new initiatives within the Preserve.

In conjunction with the school we have been awarded \$5,000 from the Loew's Charitable and Educational Foundation to use towards our Woodlawn Preserve Trailhead Project. In the grant application we proposed establishing a trailhead kiosk at the Woodlawn School entrance to the Preserve, marking the trails into and around the Preserve, and developing trail guide maps for the students. We also proposed establishing demonstration gardens of pine barren type plants at the school, so the students can learn to identify the plants they will be seeing in the Preserve.

We have received trailhead markers from the DEC to put up in the spring. The city has promised to put a trashcan at the Gifford Road entrance to support the 'carry in – carry out' policy. Marion Porterfield, as the new Heath and Recreation Committee chair on the City Council, has been receptive to our suggestions for increased security within the Preserve and promises to bring those suggestions back to the Council. We have also been in communication with Chief Kilcullen of the Schenectady PD about specific instances of infractions within the Preserve.

We will be planning cleanup activities in the early spring as weather permits. On May 11 the New York State Forest Owners Association plans a Woods Walk in the Preserve as part of their inaugural week of its 'Restore New York Woodlands' initiative. We are fortunate to have a Forester in our group whose forested property adjoins the Preserve. We look forward to hearing the perspective and ideas this group may offer towards the challenges of managing an urban woodland / open space.

We meet the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7 pm at the Hibernian Hall on State Street. All are welcome.

Always, if you see or hear any activities within the Preserve that are suspicious or illegal please report to the Schenectady PD non-emergency number at 382-5263.

Janet Chen
210-5439





Plaine and Son is proud to be a part of the Woodlawn Community. We hope that you take advantage of all the winter savings we offer this season. Our ski shop is in full swing. Les, Heather, and the rest of the staff offer this half off coupon and hope you remember us this winter for all your ski and snowboard needs.



The volunteers of the Woodlawn Park Development Committee would like to thank business owner, Matthew Butrym, for his lettering and sign work for the park.



Terry Van Valkenburgh
Funeral Director

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2013 WASTE COLLECTION DATES WOODLAWN

District #1 Woodlawn—Central Park

March
 7, 14, 21, 28
April
 4, 11, 18, 25
May
 2, 9, 16, 23, 31

District #2 Crosstown to Brandywine

March
 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
April
 5, 12, 19, 26
May
 3, 10, 17, 24



NEWSLETTER ADS & ARTICLES



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE
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**Next deadline is
 April 19, 2013**

986-5238 for more info



The Golden Ear—By John Rose

This Is A Gossip Column



Get Well Soon!! Ed Kosiur, president of the Woodlawn Neighborhood Assoc. had knee surgery recently. We hope to see him hopping around real soon.

Also, Carol Gilman, had been in the hospital recently. She is now resting at Kingsway! Get Well Soon, Carol.

St Paul's Capital Campaign is doing well. So far, \$350,000 has been collected in cash and pledges. The goal is \$500,000. If you haven't donated or pledged, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. Any donations, large or small, would be appreciated. You may send your donation to St Paul's Catholic Church, 2777 Albany St, Schenectady, 12304.

Attention all Gamblers! There will be a bus trip to Atlantic City on April 28, 29 and 30th.

We will be staying at Balli's. Rooms at Balli's are \$275.00, double occupancy. Bonuses will be \$50.00 in slots play and a Buffet dinner at Caesar's. An added attraction, on the way home, we will be stopping in New York City at the South Street Seaport. For more info, call Lou Grasso @ 374-1623.

Time For Some "Woodlawn Trivia"

THEN

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Also, congratulations to another successful ziti dinner put on by the Woodlawn Park Committee!



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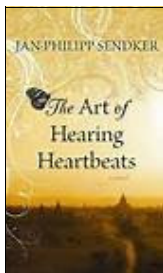
Schenectady County Public Library-Woodlawn Branch
2 Sanford Street*Schenectady*Phone: 386-2248



PAWS for Reading every Thursday 3:45—4:30 PM

Book discussion Monday, April 29
at 2 PM

"Art of Hearing Heartbeats"
By Jan-Philipp Sendker



After School Fun Gr. K-5

Tuesday, March 19 - 4 PM

"DORK DAY"

Tuesday, April 16 - 4 PM

"Art with the Tang Museum"

Hours:

Mon - Thurs 1:00—8:00

Fri & Sat 1:00—5:00

Sunday - Closed

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WOODLAWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

President	Ed Kosiur	377-8810
Vice President	Carol Gillman	346-1191
Vice President	Lou Grasso	374-1623
Treasurer	Ann Sturges	377-6678
Recording Secretary	Rose Harrell	346-4665

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS

North	Harold Wusterbarth	374-2817
South	Terry VanValkenburgh	370-5803
West	Jim LaPointe	377-2092

Committee Chairpersons

Newsletter	Ann Sturges	377-6678
Woodlawn Park	Spero Zoules	331-0929
Woodlawn Preserve	Janet Chen	210-5439
Social/Refreshment	Carol Gillman	346-1191
Annual Garage Sale	Ed Kosiur	377-8810
Welcoming	Camy Wyckoff	370-5311

If you have any suggestions pertaining to any of these committees, call the Chairperson or mail them to the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association at: 2506 Albany Street, Schenectady, NY 12304.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2013

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



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911.

Officer Anthony Savignano will patrol the Woodlawn area from 4pm to 12am. If you need his assistance for non-emergency situations, please email Anthony at: ASavignano@schenectadypd.com

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Woodlawn Park

2013 Starts off with a Bash...

During the cold winter months, you may think the volunteers of Woodlawn Park might be hibernating for the season. Not so. This is one of the busiest times of the year as we gear up for our annual Ziti & Meatball Dinner Fundraiser. This year's event was a great success as community members and volunteers came out in force to help raise money towards the park's redevelopment efforts. This event would not be the success it has become without the donations of our local businesses. Our auction raffle was a hub of action this year, taking in almost 2 1/2 times more than last year - this was due in large part to the wonderful selection of great items donated from our local Schenectady businesses. The event was a wonderful time for neighbors and friends coming together for a great community cause, and we want to thank the community for coming out this year and all of those who made this possible.

Thanks to the elected officials who came out this year. In attendance were City Council members Denise Brucker, Peggy King, Marion Porterfield, and Leesa Perazzo. Mayor McCarthy's executive assistant, Linda Sweet, came in the mayor's absence. As well, County Legislator Philip Fields joined the festivities.

Looking ahead, we will be holding a dining out event to raise money for the park. Please join us at Ruby Tuesday's located at 416 Balltown Road on March 21-23 (Thursday - Saturday). Bring a dining out voucher and present to your waiter with your check, and they will donate 20% back to our park. You can print the voucher out from our facebook page or pick one up at Grasso's Barbershop or Sunoco's on Albany Street, or the Stewarts on State Street. Help support Woodlawn Park while enjoying good food and company.

Since we started our work on the park, we have accomplished so much - from putting in over 1000 volunteers hours and ridding the park of over 12 dumpster loads of vines, leaves, and brush to initiating an adopt-a-park program and holding annual park events and fundraisers. We have completed the master concept plan for the park's eventual redevelopment and will soon be moving forward on that. Looking ahead, the park will start to undergo some long-needed transformation. This Spring, the closed pool will be filled and converted to a grassy common area which will serve as the multi-purpose element of the park. Much of the inner fencing around the pool area will be taken down to allow for a clear line of sight and walkway into and around the park. We are now beginning some initial planning for the addition of a community garden and will soon begin to look at the conversion of the old pool house into an open pavilion. And this summer, we will begin some of the smaller enhancement projects to include additional seating areas and picnic tables, plant beds, a new flag pole, and some other nice park elements.

In closing, we would very much like to thank to the following businesses for their donations and support of Woodlawn Park's Annual Ziti & Meatball Dinner Fundraiser: Walmart, Perreca's Bakery, Stewarts, Kingsway Community, Union Café, Blue Ribbon Restaurant, Glenville Queen Restaurant, Hannaford, Price Chopper, Panera Bread, ShopRite, Adirondack Beverage, Target, Casa Visco, Freihofer's, Naeem at Sunoco's, Grasso's Barbershop, Lyle's Hoagies, Nikki P's, Ming's, Marotta's, King's Mini Mart, designs by COLETTE, Diva Beads & Jewels, Brown's Brewing Company, Plaine & Son Bike-Ski-Board, Home Style Pizza, Eastern Mountain Sports, Massage Envy, Pinhead Susan's, Serendipity, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Starbucks, Ferrari's Restaurant, Stephen Harris Wood Design, Sam's Club, and Monograms Plus.

For up-to-date information on the park, check us out on facebook:
www.facebook.com/WoodlawnParkSNY

Warm regards,
Spero Zoulas - Chair of Woodlawn Park Redevelopment Committee



Will Public Schools Survive and Does It Matter?

A forum to bring attention to the real impact that today's fiscal problems have on city, suburban and rural schools in Schenectady County.

Join us to build a broad base of support and move our community beyond "sound bites" and crises.

• **John Yagielski**, retired Interim Superintendent of Schenectady City School District, will outline the problem of funding for public education.

• **Bob Fiorini**, President of the Duanesburg Central School District Board of Education, **Rosemarie Jaquith**, co-President of the Niskayuna PTO Council, and **Oriana Miles**, student at Schenectady High School, will talk about the programs in their schools that are endangered by budget cuts.

• **Deborah Bush-Suflita**, Communications Specialist of Capital Region Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), will finish the program with tips on how to organize a grassroots campaign.

• We will brainstorm ideas on how to mobilize our communities, and conclude with a letter-writing campaign directed at state legislators.



March 7, 2013 @ 7 PM

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