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July/August ~ 2015



Woodlawn Annual Community Cookout Wednesday, August 26th Woodlawn Park Begins at 5:30 pm

2015 Summer Youth Program @ Woodlawn Park See page 18 for details...



President's Message

Woodlawn Park

The Golden Ear

Woodlawn Preserve

\*June brings Woodlawn major milestone birthdays\*

The Westside Story

Household Hints/Tips

**Community Event Pictures** 

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Lorenzo's Italian Cafe

Maurice's Sandwich Shop Mavis Tire Mina's Mohawk Progressive FCU **Plaines** Roc's Hairstvling Serendipity St. Paul the Apostle Church Stanford United Methodist Church Starbucks Steve's Barber Shop Subway Shop Sunoco Food/Gas Mart Uncle Sam's Candy Woodlawn Hardware Woodlawn Library

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#### **Summer Learning Through Play**

At the end of the school year, you may have been encouraged by your child's teacher to keep up the school work by reading, practicing math facts, and writing in a journal. While these things are beneficial, I'd like to offer one more essential thing for your child to do this summer: Play! Encourage your child to explore and experiment. Notice how creative play sparks imagination and increases story telling skills. Boost your child's confidence by playing games, such as Monopoly, that allow them to count money and make change. Or, try a trivia game that will get your child reading questions to their opponent as well as coming up with the answers. Whatever you choose, try to make learning fun, and your child will love to learn. We at Brown School wish our Woodlawn neighbors a play-filled summer! -Patti Vitale, Head of School.

#### A Message From Neighborhood Association President:

#### New Date For Annual Picnic

The annual **Woodlawn Neighborhood Association Picnic** is scheduled for **Wednesday**, **August 26** at the Woodlawn Park (off Kings Rd.). The BBQ will include all you can eat burgers, chicken, hot dogs and sides. *Neighbors are asked to please bring a covered dish or dessert to share.* Our local musical group, **Running The River**, will be returning for their 7th year to perform country, rock, folk, Irish and blues music from **5:30 – 7:30 PM**.



Our Annual Woodlawn Garage Sale was once again a huge success! Thank you to all of our wonderful neighbors in the Woodlawn Community who participated and of course to the hundreds of folks who stopped in to make purchases! Many streets were bumper to bumper! A special "thank you" to Grasso's Barber Shop (Lou) and Sunoco Gas/Food Mart.







The **Woodlawn Park Summer Youth Program** will begin its second year starting on **Tuesday**, **July 7**. The program is directed by the Schenectady County Youth Bureau in partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady. Free lunches are also provided by the Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM). The program is open enrollment and you can still bring your child there to participate anytime during the summer. The program operates Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11 am - 5 pm and will conclude on **Thursday**, **August 13**. The program features educational activities (reading, art, health and wellness, etc.), special events, sport clinics and activities, games, and more. Check out page 18 of this publication and our website for additional information.

Congratulations to our local high school and college graduates from the Woodlawn community. For our sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren, best wishes and success as you move forward!

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



We all hate potholes and like most of the Northeast, we suffer through the many potholes we have here in Schenectady. They are unable to be filled when the temperature dips below freezing. The city did a magnificent job filling them and my hat is off to them. Now that summer is here, they are paving many streets in Woodlawn. Albany Street is half done and Watt Street is getting the final layer down. Plus many side streets will be done. Thank you City of Schenectady.

St. Paul's Men's Club is sponsoring a 3-day bus trip to Cape Ann and Boston on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>; Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>; and Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be staying at the Cape Ann Harbor Resort right on the ocean with many boats in front of the hotel. Trip includes shopping in Rockport, and visits to Gloucester and Hammond Castle. We will have a guide on board for a 4 hour tour of Boston, plus a visit to Quincy Market. Bus leaves St. Paul's Church parking lot on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:45am and will return on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at approximately 8:00pm. Double occupancy is \$299 per person, triple occupancy is \$259 per person, and single occupancy is \$449 per person. A \$50 deposit is due with reservation. Final payment is due September 1<sup>st</sup>. To make a reservation contact Lou Grasso at Grasso's Barbershop at 2506 Albany Street, or call Lou at 374-1623 or 346-6775 or Bob Gayin at 377-0636.

Rumor has it that Gaylord's may be reopening?

I'LL BE LISTENING. JOHN ROSE



Thank you to all the volunteers who worked at the Woodlawn Garage Sale at Woodlawn Park!



### **Woodlawn Preserve**

(Continued from p. 19)

begin mapping out how they can assist us in moving forward with our ecological goals. They will be procuring equipment for us for trail maintenance, including a chain saw and loppers. They will also be in the Preserve in the very near future to assess the different areas and what may need to be done for restoration. It was suggested by them that it may not be all that difficult to re-establish a colony of Karner blue butterflies with the addition of the proper plants and the release of butterflies that have been nurtured by the APBC. That is exciting news!

#### **Upcoming events:**

July 25<sup>th</sup> – the DEC is no longer sponsoring our Fishing Education Day, but we will be holding one anyway. Please watch for further details, as this looks like it will be a great day for kids and adults alike.

As always, please call if there is anything you think is amiss in the Preserve, including loud noise, entry by motorized vehicles, fires, or anything you feel is not right. DEC: 1-877-457-5680 or directly to our region #4 reps Chris Valenty and Brian Wilson at 357-2047 Schenectady PD: 630-0911

Janet Chen 210-5439



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- WHEN: FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2015
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# Woodlawn Preserve

Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve:

Summer is here, and the Woodlawn Preserve is a great place to visit. It looks like usage is up with more people fishing, hiking and generally appreciating our beautiful Preserve. With increased usage, however, we have also noticed an increase in vandalism. A tick warning sign placed by an Eagle Scout was found pulled out of the ground, and after it was replaced it disappeared altogether. One of the fishing line receptacles near the pier was also removed. There was a tagging spree on the barriers between the railroad tracks and the Preserve. There also appears to be increases in refuse left behind. Much thanks to our vigilant volunteers who are always in there to notice and initiate remediation. Our observations and any evidence collected have been forwarded to the Schenectady PD.

Alpha Delta Lambda did a great job in helping us with a clean up on May 9<sup>th</sup>. About 20 sorority sisters and a few frat brothers turned up to help us remove quite a bit of trash, including an old mattress. It was a beautiful day and we deeply appreciate the spirit and enthusiasm of the students who showed up for the event.

We had a table at the Albany Pine Bush Lupine Fest Block Party this year. This event was well attended and gave us the opportunity to share the ecological importance of the Woodlawn Preserve as an adjoining remnant of the geology of the glacial period that existed so many thousands of years ago. We met some new Friends and formed new alliances that will help us with our future goals.

Our Awareness/Fundraiser event at Raymour and Flanagan was a big success. Between our raffle and the event itself we were able to raise close to \$1,000. We extend many thanks to Raymour and Flanagan and their staff for their support.

We met with our mayor Gary McCarthy, key members of the city's administrative staff, Chris Hawver of the APBC and Asemblyman Phil Steck to discuss the Cooperative Agreement between the APBC, FWP, and City of Schenectady. One of the items discussed was the lack of park designation by the city for the Woodlawn Preserve. If designated as a park (as strongly suggested by the Comprehensive 20/20 plan) the Preserve would be protected from any future threats of development, as well as be eligible for any future monies that may come to the City for parks. It is an important designation for our future, and we ask that you please contact your local city representative (City council members Ed Kosiur, Marion Porterfield and Vince Riggi are on the Health and Recreation Committee) to voice your support for this designation. And, our plan for the handicapped accessible trail to the fishing pier is now with the City Engineer for review and approval.

I met with Chris Hawver Executive Director, Neil Gifford Conservation Director, and Joel Hecht Stewardship Director of the Albany Pine Bush Commission (APBC) to

(con't on p. 20)

# Summer Youth Program Woodlawn Park

The Schenectady County Youth Bureau in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Schenectady and Schenectady Inner City Ministry announces its summer recreational & enrichment program at Woodlawn Park.

The summer program will provide local youth ages 8-16 with organized and structured opportunities including sporting activity, group games & arts and crafts.

#### Program Days/Hours:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays / 11 am - 5 pm July  $7^{th}$  – August  $13^{th}$ 

#### Free lunch program:

Sponsored by SICM (Schenectady Inner City Ministry) Serving 1 – 2:15 pm during program hours

#### Code of Conduct:

All participants must agree to abide by the Code of Conduct

#### Registration/Contact:

Ed Kosiur - 386.2211 / www.schenectadycounty.com













#### 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 CELEBRATES ONE OF ITS NEWEST CENTENARIANS AS IT WELOMES THE BIRTH OF A NEW CHILD

\*\*\*\*\*

This June brought us two major life milestones! Woodlawn resident, Florence Dick, celebrated turning 100 years young. Florence has been in Woodlawn for 50 years. She worked in retail at the Boston store and Wallace's. Florence has one daughter, Kathleen Dick, and two grandchildren: Shana, who lives here locally, and Ben Feinberg, who resides in Astoria, Oregon. Congratulations on 100 years Florence!



#### Congratulations Florence!

(L to R: Shana Feinberg - granddaughter; Florence Dick; Kathleen Dick - daughter



Proud Mother and Father, Dawn and Brian Flynn, also saw the birth of their first child, Elizabeth Jean Flynn. Elizabeth was born on June 19th and came into the world at 7 pounds, 12 ounces and 19 inches long. And Elizabeth arrived just in time for Fathers day! Proud father, Brian, is a fire-fighter for the city of Schenectady and he and Dawn are staunch supporters of the Woodlawn Park redevelopment efforts. Congratulations Dawn & Brian on your new bundle of joy!



#### Handy Hint 1 - "Love Your Oven"

Keep the heart of your kitchen clean by lining the bottom with a nonstick ovenliner. It can be wiped with a paper towel, put in the dishwasher, and reused.

#### Handy Hint 2 - "Zap the Sponge"

We all know that sponges can be a breeding ground for bacteria. Disinfect yours every night by squeezing it out and microwaving it on high for a minute. When it's shredded and smelly, replace it.

#### Handy Hint 3 - "Make Shower Doors Shine"

Rubbing a teaspoon of lemon oil on glass shower doors twice a month causes water to bead up and roll off. Or, try Rain-X Original Glass Treatment, a car-care product made to keep rainwater off your windshield. Use it twice a year.

#### These and other great household tips at:

http://www.womansday.com/home/organizing-cleaning/tips/a3402/30-quick-easy-cleaning-tips-37860/

#### Annual Planting Day at Woodlawn 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 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

### www.bumpyspolarfreeze.net



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### Summer Fun Dance Camp

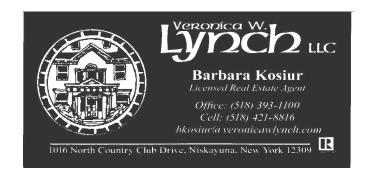
Mon, July 6th - Fri, July 10th 9:30 - Noon 4-6 Year Olds 12:30-3:00 7-9 Year Olds

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

Once again, greetings from Woodlawn West. This area of Woodlawn is bounded by Route 7 to Fehr Avenue across to Watt Street. However, please note that the Schenectady Police Department considers us to be part of the Central State Street Dispatch.

I want to thank the city for paving the portion of Dartmouth Street between Albany and State.

One of my reasons for these articles is to write on quality of life issues. As such, I solicited comments from merchants noting their sentiments on our area. I selected businesses closer to the Schenectady City boundary. These include three well established and one newly established business. The well established businesses lamented that the area has deteriorated since their business inception. Their comments include increased crime (shootings, burglaries), poorly maintained adjoining properties, vacant properties, and little city support. This results in decreased property and business values. One owner stated that the city police commissioner met with several owners a few years back. A promise of security camera installations was made but to date no cameras have been installed. The city has lost credibility with these owners. One owner commented that there is little perceived value in having their business located in Schenectady Woodlawn. On a positive note, owners were appreciative that their business was supported by the local community.

Because I believe that a vibrant neighborhood depends on successful business (no one likes to see boarded up business windows), I would urge the city managers to meet with the Woodlawn business owners and collectively design downtown like project solutions for the area (new sidewalks, greenery and code enforcement).

Businesses interviewed (all known for friendly courteous service resulting in repeat business):

- Lorenzo's Café, 1500 State Street: specializing in home-made bread, rolls, French Toast, immediate seating and fast service. Stop in and say Hi to Matt
- G&M Auto Tech, 1505 State Street: noted for excellent automotive service at a fair price. Say Hi to Bob & Mike
- Steve's Barber Shop, 1528 State Street: walk-ins welcomed, performing new to classic hair cutting styles. Name says it all
- Camillo's Bar & Bistro, 1490 State Street: noted for fine drinks and excellent light fare menu. Say Hi to Cheryl.

Till next time...

### Woodlawn Park

2015 Summer Youth Program...Park Playground Update...Horseshoe Pit Project Day

Summer is officially here! If you have children looking for some fun activities with friends, look into the **Summer Youth Program** to be held in the park starting this month. The program will be in its second year and is run by the Boys and Girls Club of Schenectady. It provides **local youth ages 8-16** with organized and structured opportunities including sporting activity, group games & arts and crafts. **Program days/hours will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays / 11 am - 5 pm.** So sign your child up - the program will run from **July 7th - August 13th** and will offer a **free lunch program** which is sponsored by SICM (Schenectady Inner City Ministry). **Lunch will be served from 1 - 2:15 pm during program hours.** For more information on the summer program, please see the flier on page 18. Please contact neighborhood president, Ed Kosiur for questions and to register your child. You can reach him at the Schenectady County Youth Bureau at 386-2211.

This year's garage sale event in the park was another rousing success!! Thank you to all who donated items for the sale. The proceeds from this year's sale will be going to towards funding of the new playground area in the park, which we hope to have updated within the coming year. As we move forward in our redevelopment efforts with the park, we will continue to hold our annual garage sale in the park. So if you would like to donate any of your household items, we are now taking donations all year round. Just email us at Woodlawn-Park411@gmail.com to set up a donation drop off or pick up if needed. Thank you.

Speaking of the playground area efforts, there have been some recent developments. The city's Recreational Advisory Commission - a volunteer commission tasked to assess the city's parks and make recommendations on improvements - just completed its assessments and made some initial recommendations to the city on safety and maintenance issues. Within the week of making its first round of requests, the city began its work. In Woodlawn Park, city staff recently took out two pieces of unsafe playground equipment. Moving forward, we will continue our outreach to secure additional funding streams to incorporate our plans for the new playground area in the park. As improvements come we will also update you on our face-book page.

Our next volunteer project day will focus on the addition of a HORSESHOE PIT area to the back area of the park. The *project day will be on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> (rain date of the 19<sup>th</sup>) starting at 9 AM,* and we would love your assistance. If you would like to volunteer for this project, please stop by the park that day and keep your eyes peeled to our facebook page for the event day's posting.

Lastly, we recently updated all the plaques around the Area of Reflection and park benches. All plaques are now a stainless steel with black lettering for easier reading. We also just completed our annual park planting day - adding some new perennials, bushes and a bunch of marigolds. The park now has a porta potty available for use during non-programming and event hours - it's located at the rear of the park building. And some potentially exciting news has recently come to light - we can't speak to specifics yet, but it may involved a revamped volleyball court area and a refurbished basketball court. Details will follow once we have more information.

We thank you for your ongoing support! Warm regards,

Spero Zoulas - Chair, Woodlawn Park Redevelopment Committee Woodlawn Park ~ located at intersection of Kings Rd & Ricci Ave Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WoodlawnParkSNY WoodlawnPark411@gmail.com



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#### WOODLAWN PRESERVE

THANK YOU to the City of Schenectady for cleaning up the beaver dam and taking away the debris







#### Notable Holidays for July & August...

#### July

1 - Canada Day (Dominion Day)

4 - Independence Day

22 - Hammock Day...relax and enjoy!



#### August

3 - National Watermelon Day

10 - National S'mores Day

13 - Left Hander's Day 14 - V-J Day

15 - Feast of the Assumption

**30** - National Marshmallow Toasting Day



# REUSE RECYCLE

#### 2015 **WASTE COLLECTION DATES WOODLAWN**

District #1 District #2 Woodlawn—Central Park Crosstown to Brandywine July July 2, 10, 17, 24, 31 6, 13, 20, 27 August August 7, 14, 21, 28 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 September September 4,14, 21, 28 8, 15, 22, 29







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