



May 2006 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 47 No. 9

*Secret Gardens Tour June 23 & 24 - Ellen Desmond*

The 4th "Secret Gardens of the Stockade" tour, sponsored by the Stockade Garden Group, promises delight once again this year, a chance to explore ten rarely seen, largely hidden private garden spaces and 6 public gardens and points of interest within Schenectady's oldest neighborhood.

Welcome to the gardens of Schenectady's historic Stockade, whose homes, cradled by the arms of the Binnekill and the Mohawk River, date from the late 1600's through the late Victorian era. Stockade residents, privileged to be the caretakers of these wonderful historic properties, invite you to share the joy of gardening within their treasured "secret" gardens.

Come, bring a friend. Explore gardens descending the river banks, opening onto parkland, two neighboring gardens, a garden of ephemera and plantings, in a style set for a wedding, with trellises and climbing roses. See the 7 sisters in bloom. See new water features and a small space garden in process. Experience hidden courtyards, winding paths, intimate spaces, the flow of peace and serenity. Find the oldest Ginko tree in New York and the 3 sisters.

Tour the public spaces as well. Walking along the river through Riverside Park, enjoy the gardens at the Washington Avenue entrance, the mixed lilac and rose beds along the way, and the garden as you exit Ingersoll Avenue. Visit the garden surrounding Lawrence's statue where Front, Ferry and Green Streets meet. Spend the day if you wish. Enjoy sitting in the park, further exploring the neighborhood, noticing the many young street trees as you go, and eating at one of the many restaurants within or surrounding the Stockade.

**Tickets are \$15.00 per person pre-purchased, and \$20 if purchased on either tour day. To reserve your tickets, call 346-5735 or 374-3854.**

**The tour will take place, rain or shine, Friday, June 23 from 3-8 PM and Saturday, June 24 from 10 AM to 4 PM.**

Proceeds from past tours have been used to plant over 100 trees in the Stockade, with the help of Re-Tree Schenectady, to develop and maintain the Riverside Park and Lawrence public gardens, for park planters and for Stoop awards, an incentive program with prizes given to residents for winning doorway, porch or front of house plantings. Stockade neighbors who wish to help sell tickets on tour days may call 393-4725.

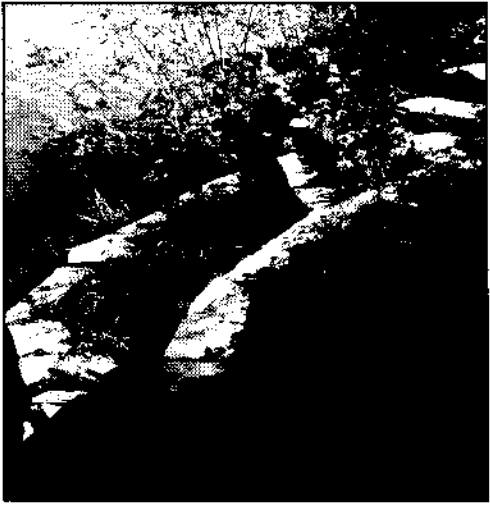


Photo by Jennifer Wells

• <b>Special Meeting -YWCA Plans</b>	<b>Stockade Dates</b>	<b>Art Show</b> Sat., Sept. 9
• Wed. May 3 7:00 PM p. 3		p. 12
• <b>Stockade General Meeting</b>	<b>Sidewalk Sale</b> -Saturday June 3 p.7	
• Thurs. May 11 - 7:30 PM p. 3		
• Both at Historical Society, 32 Wash.	<b>Secret Garden Tour</b>	<b>Walkabout &amp; Waterfront Faire</b>
	Fri., June 23 3 - 8 PM	Sat., Sept. 30
• <b>Neighborhood Clean-up</b>	Sat., June 24 10 AM - 4 PM	<b>Sept. Spy Deadline</b>
• Sat. May 20 p. 8		<b>August 15</b>

## **Around and About the Stockade**

### **Schenectady Civic Players present**

"Over The River and Through the Woods"

May 12, 13, 14 & 17-21. See page 11.

### **Schenectady County Historical Society**

32 Washington Avenue 374-0263

"The Erie Canal" Sat., May 6. Frank Taormina tells rich history along with a power point presentation. 1:30 PM. Refreshments, 2 PM Program.

### **Moon and River Cafe**

115 S. Ferry St. 382-1938 4 -11 PM

Vegetarian Fare & Dessert Paradise!

For full schedule of events call or stop in.

All 8 PM unless stated otherwise.

Mon. May 1 Story Circle, open mic, 7 PM

Tues., May 2 String Dusters - Bluegrass

Wed., May 3 Saving The World Discussion 7 PM

8 PM John Dermont - guitarist

Fri., May 5 KP Devlin - NYC pop star

Sat., May 6 6 PM Poetry Open Mic, music at 8

Sun., May 7 Noon Reception for Mabel Leon - Stockade resident, "Photographs of Cuba"

Mon., May 8 Mon. night Open Mic - host Bob Barker!  
(also May 22)

Tues., May 9, Dream Team - get your dream interpreted

Wed. May 10 The New Comedians - hilarious new graduating class from comedy school, 2nd Wednesdays!

Tues., May 16, Tom Ross - Union C. Prof & ethnomusicologist - instruments & culture from other lands

Wed., May 17, Talk by Mabel Leon about Cuba (Libre!) and Caravan

Fri., May 19 Schoharie Kids Jazz Orchestra

Sat., May 20 back by popular command - Bellydancing! from Rosie Irene's Dance School.

Tues., May 23, Stockade singer Catherine Norr

### **Events at the Open Door Bookstore**

128 Jay Street 346-2719

• Fri., May 5 - **35th Anniversary Gala** 7:30 PM Reception and Fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers.

• Sat., May 13 Book signing by Marshall Karp, "The Rabbit Factory."

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9:00 a.m. Parish Mass

10:00 a.m. Brunch & Fellowship

Phone: (518) 374-3163

## **Schenectady County Community College 78 Washington Avenue 381-1250**

• **SCCC Guitar Ensemble and Vocal Chamber Ensemble**, Mon., May 1 7:30 PM, Community Auditorium. Free.

• **SCCC Wind Ensemble**, Fri., May 5, 7:30 PM, Community Auditorium. Free.

• **SCCC Woodwind Chamber Ensembles**, Mon., May 8, 7:30 PM Elston Hall, Lally Mohawk Room. Free.

• **SCCC Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble**, Wed., May 10, 7:30 PM, Community Auditorium. Free.

• **Capital Region Wind Ensemble** presents "Something Blue," Sun. June 11, 3:00 PM, Community Auditorium. Tickets: \$8 public; \$6 students.

# Special Stockade Association Meeting

Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 PM

Agenda: Plans for the YWCA's Mary Hill House  
and an update on the YMCA Project

## Stockade Association General Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 7:00 PM Social time, 7:30 PM Meeting

Agenda: To Be Announced

Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue  
entrance in back of building

### The Stockade Association Membership 2005-2006

The Stockade Association has been carrying out its mission, "the protection and improvement of the properties" within its boundaries, for 48 years. Its objectives are to preserve the Historic District and the quality of life for its caretakers. The Association helps assure stability in a neighborhood that has been termed "a national treasure" and is enjoyed by visitors from all parts of America and abroad. Please support the Association and become a member by returning the coupon below.

**Membership: October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006. \$15 per person, \$20 per household. \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you would like to help with any of the following useful efforts:

Art Show     Membership     Riverside Park     Walkabout     Neighborhood Watch  
 Garden Group     Neighborhood Celebrations     Sidewalk Sale     *The Stockade Spy*     Government Affairs

*The Stockade Spy* is distributed to the neighborhood monthly, September through May.

If you are a non-resident and

• would like to be mailed *The Stockade Spy*, it is \$10 per year. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• would like to become a "Friend of the Stockade" (an associate membership)  
and support the efforts of the Stockade, your contributions are very welcome. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like to give *The Stockade Spy* as a gift, it is \$10 per year. \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name of recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Address of recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Name of sender \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to "**The Stockade Association**"    Total Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
and send to: Stockade Association Treasurer, 10 North Church Street, Schenectady, NY 12305.

# Neighborhood News

Stockade website: [www.historicstockade.com](http://www.historicstockade.com).

## Stockade Association Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday April 4, 2006 at the Schenectady County Historical Society

Present: Joe Fava, Bob Briber, Mary D'Alessandro, Diane DeMeo, Lyn Gordon, Fred Kindl, Gloria Kishton, Dale Miller, Bob Preville and Peter Rumora. Lily Alvarez had asked to be excused but submitted a memorandum with insight into grant sources and procedures. Sylvie Briber, Editor of the SPY, Vince DiSerbo, Ray Gillen, Frank Gilmore, Doug Sayles and Wayne Senecal were present for a brief, informal discussion before the meeting.

Joe called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The minutes were approved as distributed; Lyn Gordon's Treasurer's report, which showed operating expenses of \$171.36 and income of \$255 since the last Stockade meeting, was accepted.

Peter described a meeting he, Joe and Dale had with Carl Olsen regarding sidewalks. Carl said that a homeowner who wants new sidewalks can install them at their own expense and the City will put in curbs. Carl, incidentally, said he could install curbs without disturbing sidewalks. The City will also reserve trees if a homeowner wants to replace them. The group talked about sidewalks - a complex subject with homeowners often wanting different solutions to their own sidewalks.

Joe said the question is "what do we want for the Stockade?" Sidewalk improvement was a high priority among voters at the recent general meeting. Burying utilities, to remove the forest of poles and overhead wires, has also been a goal. After discussion the group agreed that we need a planning grant to help us study and understand the requirements. Lily had asked in her memo to the Board that we express

our desires formally, so it was MSP "The Board of the Stockade Association approves an approach to appropriate authorities for planning grant money to develop a plan for renovating sidewalks and utility distribution in the Stockade." Mary said that she felt that Frank Gilmore would also have ideas about funding sources.

Peter raised the issue of a **parking permit for the Stockade**, which many favor, and described a program that had been in effect in Albany. He has developed a plan for the Stockade which he showed to Carl Olsen. Joe said he would ask Carl about it.

Next, Dale described the status of **house plaques**. Gloria had developed three possible logos and after discussion the group selected one. Gloria will discuss specific design requirements with the foundry. Dale, after talking with Don Rittner about the design and related issues, plans to put the design on the Stockade Yahoo site for consideration. Dale said that the County has a grant program to support historical values in Schenectady, with grant amounts between \$1000 and \$3000; he will apply for the larger amount with the idea of helping homeowners pay for their plaque. Joe said he would talk with Susan Savage about the program.

Gloria reported on **Heritage Foundation**. National Historic Preservation Month activities include Annual Preservation Awards and party (5/19), walking tour of Vale Cemetery (5/20), Livable Cities lecture by Mr. Gardner, Mayor of St. Augustine, FL (5/21) and other walking tours and activities. SHF is working on an initiative to incorporate into the local Stockade Historic District properties not initially included and those later gerrymandered out, and to expand the boundaries of the District. They are also working on funding structural reports for two endangered

*(continued on page 5)*



**Summer Classes Begin  
Monday, June 12  
Registration:  
May 3- June 8**

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BARBARA & MICHAEL NAUMOFF

(Neighborhood News continued from page 4)

Historic properties, the South Church Street firehouse and the Silver Diner. Plans for a December fundraiser are being considered.

The group discussed the **vote tally from the general meeting on March 9**. A co-op grocery store was first choice; sentiment was expressed that what people really want is a place to shop for groceries. A food co-op is an enormous amount of work. Lyn pointed out that the two topics, "**Preservation/Code Enforcement**" and "**Deteriorating Properties**" together received more votes than "co-op grocery," and they together are a long-term function of the Association. Joe described the efforts several years ago where a committee identified deteriorating properties and called the owner's attention to the problems. If no action was taken, the City code enforcement office could take action and charge the homeowner. He said we need a code enforcement committee to pick up that effort.

Lyn & Don are working on the Sch'dy Heritage Foundation initiative to **extend the boundaries of the Stockade** to its original footprint. Joe said he had talked with Bill Hickman about presenting "The Love Letters of John and Abigail Adams" at the **Walkabout** and if details can be worked out, will want Board members to sell tickets.

Joe said that Jennifer Wells is on top of the **Park CleanUp** on May 20, It was suggested that the publicity focus be a little broader than just the Park; for example, "Let's CleanUp our Neighborhood." Diane reported that mailings to vendors for **Kerst Kermis** are going out, and while they haven't decided yet' where to hold the event, she and Joe will discuss it. Joe said he would do the **Sidewalk Sale** on June 3. Sylvie said that **50th anniversary of the Stockade Association is 2007**. She asked

that this be mentioned at the next general meeting. The Stockade will also become an important part of the 350th anniversary of the City. (One wag suggested that, that year, we display 350 Christmas trees.) Lyn said the **Nominating Committee** has 3 vacancies, and is looking for additional names. The group discussed the **YWCA's plans for the Mary Hill house**; one issue seems to be that the city is reported to have a moratorium on cutting existing buildings into apartments. The **general meeting of May 11** was discussed. Two subjects may consume the agenda: The status of the YMCA and the Mary Hill house project at the YWCA. Gloria also suggested the **bike-path** be discussed, but Joe said that planning will be months in being formalized and probably deserves a meeting devoted to the subject.

**The next meeting of the Board is May 2**. Peter identified one important issue, **the budget of the Association**. Just how do we want to handle it? He said Lyn works very hard to manage the budget we approved, and to keep our expenses in line, and the Board ignores the budget freely.

Respectfully submitted Bob Briber

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### Wednesday Evening

6:00 Family Dinner (Sept.-May)  
7:00 Prayer Meeting  
Youth groups

*You are always welcome!*



# May is National Historic Preservation Month

Schenectady Heritage Foundation announces the following events to celebrate:

Schenectady Heritage Foundation Annual **Preservation Awards** will be presented on Friday, May 19 at noon in the rotunda of Schenectady City Hall. Later that evening, a celebration honoring the recipients will be held at the Schenectady County Historical Society.

**Livable Cities**, a speaker series begun by the Foundation in 1999, will present a panel discussion focusing on Heritage Tourism on Monday, May 15 at 7pm. Panelists will include County Historian Don Rittner, Dr. Charles Gehring, Director of the New Netherlands Institute, and Councilwoman Barbara Blanchard. The discussion will take place in the McChesney Room of the Schenectady County Public Library - main branch.

A lecture focusing on **Heritage Tourism** will be presented by George Gardner, Mayor of St. Augustine, Florida, Sunday, May 21, at 3pm at historic St. Joseph's Church, Lafayette St. at State St., Schenectady, with a dinner to follow at the Parker Inn. Mayor Gardner is tied to the area through relatives. He was born into a political family, and first elected mayor on the 90th anniversary of his grandfather's election as mayor of Schenectady - four-term Mayor George R. Lunn. His father, Carroll "Pink" Gardner, was elected to eleven consecutive terms as Schenectady County Clerk. Mayor Gardner serves a city of 13,000 with more than three million heritage tourism visitors annually.

Several walking tours are scheduled; watch for publicity about these events.

## A New Book for Stretch the Dachshund Fans

Candlewick Press announces a sequel to the book, "Where's Stretch?" "**Peekaboo, Stretch!**" is another lift-the-flap title by Stockade neighbor and friend, Karen Pandell, starring her lovable and comical dachshund. This time Stretch and his children's book family are working and playing together in their garden. As usual, the wily dachshund eludes them in humorous and mischievous ways.

The Open Door Bookstore at 128 Jay Street invites all Stockade residents to a gala benefiting Literacy Volunteers (\$5 donation) on Friday, May 5, from 7:30 to 9 PM. The party honors the 35th anniversary of the independent bookseller. Karen will be signing copies of both "Where's Stretch?" and "Peekaboo, Stretch!" along with other local authors who will be autographing their books as well.

For those unable to attend the event, Karen will be doing another book signing at The Open Door for

the Stretch books on Saturday, June 10 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. You may call the store ahead of time at 346-2719 on either occasion to reserve copies.



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**WANTED**

An enthusiastic, hardworking, intelligent neighbor (with financial skills would be nice) to serve on the Board of the Stockade Association for a two year term. If interested, please call Lyn Gordon at 370-4324.

16th Annual

# STOCKADE NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALK SALE

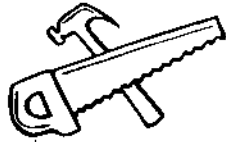
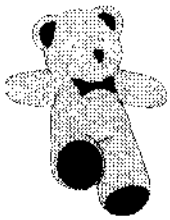


The 16th Annual Stockade Sidewalk Sale will be  
Saturday, June 3, 2006 (Rain Date: June 4th)  
9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.



Please join us in this opportunity to convert those unwanted items into cash; meet your neighbors and show off our beautiful neighborhood!

Your \$10 participation fee pays for your permit and helps to defray the costs of advertising. Permits will be distributed the morning of the sale, and must be displayed at your table.



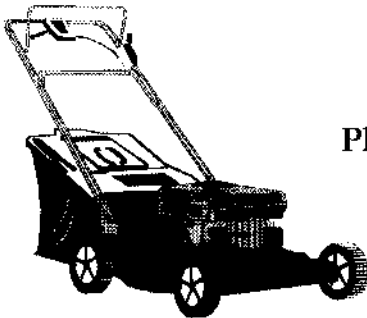
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will participate in the 16th Annual Stockade Sidewalk Sale!

Enclosed is my \$10 fee made payable to the Stockade Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

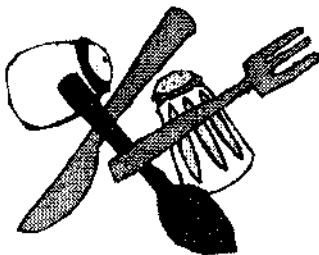
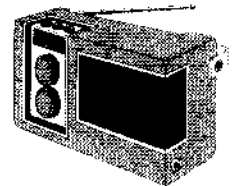


Please return this form (with check for \$10) to:

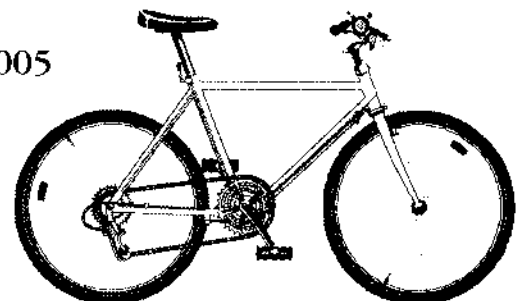
Joseph Fava, 27 N. Ferry Street

Schenectady, NY 12305

374-6190



Due Date: Monday, June 2, 2005



## Annual Park and Neighborhood Cleanup and Garden Planting Day

**Sat., May 20, 9 AM to Noon**

Come one, come all!

Join your Stockade neighbors in a working celebration of Spring - our annual park cleanup and garden planting day.

Meet at 9 AM at Riverside Park's Washington Avenue entrance for task coordination. Bring your garden tools, your smiles, and your appetites, and plan on working in good company.

Work Session is 9 to 12. Sandwiches and non-alcoholic beverages for hungry workers are provided at noon.

Sponsored by  
The Stockade Association and the  
Stockade Garden Group.

## Cherry Blossoms in Washington

If you can't get to Washington, DC, for their cherry blossoms, you can get to Washington Avenue in the Stockade where the street explodes with pink. Did the tree planters intend this little joke on us?

We have to thank the partnership of The Stockade Garden Group and Re-Tree Schenectady with Stan Hickok for the planting of these beautiful trees, along with help from neighborhood volunteers.

Susanna Sherwood says that the Garden Group has financed over **100 trees** in the Stockade! Neighbor, Peter Rumora, tells us that the trees are Prunus Accolade, a cultivar of a Sergeant's Cherry, named after Sergeant who was a horticulturist and wrote books on trees at the turn of the century. A true American Cherry, anyway.

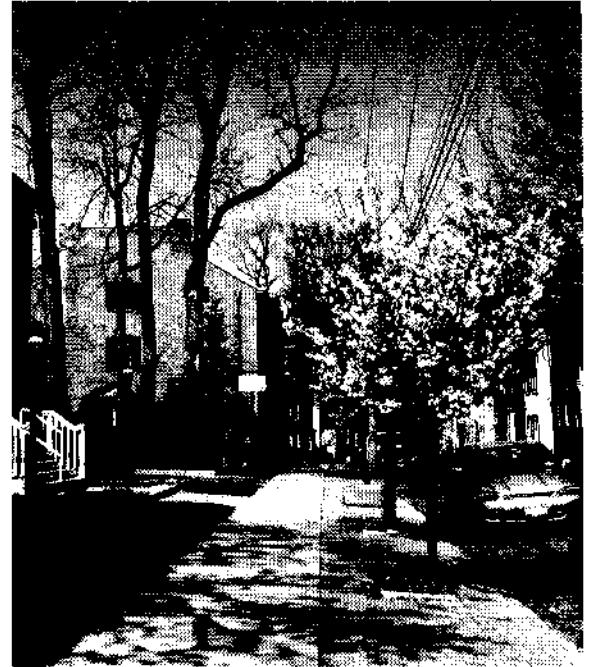


Photo by Ellen Desmond

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Michael, along with his brother, Jeffrey, and their friends were responsible for the rehabilitations of two houses in the Stockade, one of which, 238 Green Street, was featured on the 2005 Walkabout. Michael is a resident of the Stockade and has recently earned his electrician's license.



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Photo by Gerald Plante



Old towers at former Alco. . . along the Mohawk.  
Venice anyone . . .? ca. 2005

## Do You Know About The Neighborhood Bulletin Board?

There is a bulletin board located on the Front Street side of the 1795 Cafe (Arthur's Market) for the use of Stockade neighbors and is the property of the Stockade Association. Here's how it works:

1. Only for items that relate to the Stockade neighborhood
2. Size - no larger than business cards and 3" x 5" cards
3. Label items "For Stockade Bulletin Board."
4. Put date on the back of item.
5. Drop in the mailbox at 27 North Ferry Street.

Items will be posted immediately and taken down after 30 days. For any questions, please call Joe Fava, 374-6190.



**SCHENECTADY CIVIC PLAYERS**

**77th SEASON - 2005-2006**

**OVER THE RIVER & THROUGH THE WOODS**

May 12-14 & 17-21

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## Planning to Do Some Outside Repairs & Painting?

### You may need to file an application

If you are planning outside repairs and painting, **including those that are identical to what was there before**, you may need to file an application. Any repairs, painting, or sidewalk replacement **seen from the public right of way** must have approval from the Schenectady Historic Commission. Applications, full deadline and meeting schedule, and further information are available from Christine Slovak, 382-5147, or Tony Tozzi, 382-5054 in the Department of Development, Room 14, 105 Jay Street, City Hall, Schenectady, 12305. Fees for Historic Commission applications are \$10 for residential applications and \$20 for commercial applications. Following is the schedule for application deadlines and 7:00 PM review meeting dates for 2006:

<u>Application deadline</u>	<u>Review meeting</u>
May 1	May 15
June 5	June 19
July 3	July 17
August 7	August 21
September 4	September 18
October 2	October 16
November 6	November 20
December 4	December 18

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# - Tidings -

## Stupendous Stoop Awards

### Welcome to:

- Frank Santibianchi to Front Street
- Gerald Cooper, St. George's new sexton, a Katrina survivor
- Sara Morse to North Street, a scientific journal writer.

### Farewell to:

- Carolyn and Dick Otterness of Front Street, leaving for Budapest.

### Condolences to:

- the family of Clifford Gavitt of College Street, a carpenter and avid bowler
- the family of Eleanor Jaeger, longtime resident of Front Street, teacher, principal, and community ambassador for Germany.
- the family of Annette Musler, longtime Stockade resident and co-owner of Musler's Dress Shop.

### Welcome back to:

The Schneiderwind family to Union Street. Harold is employed by the State University of New York as a Construction Administrator and is currently working on several ongoing projects in Saratoga Springs at Empire College. He also is a Consulting Civil Engineer helping with several projects within the Stockade Historic District as a Rehabilitation Consultant. Debbie is a homemaker; clerk of the works for Harold's consulting business and owner of Ingersoll House Antiques where she is set-up in the Southern Catskill area. Most importantly they are proud parents of seven children.

*If you know of any items for "Tidings" such as neighborhood arrivals, departures, births, deaths, anniversaries, or special achievements, please call Sylvie Briber, 377-0469.*

Stoop is derived from the Dutch word "Stoep," meaning a small porch, platform or staircase leading to the entrance of a house.

Congratulations and thank you to the following for their outstanding efforts in making our neighborhood more beautiful! Thanks to all other neighbors, too, who put a little extra into their stoop efforts. The Stockade Garden Group sponsors and funds the awards.

### 2005 Stoop Awards:

- \$100 First Prize: Fred Heitkamp for 12 North Street
- \$75 Second Prize: Patty Dumas for 232 Green Street
- \$50 Third Prize: Janie and Bob Hayner for 6 Front Street

**Now** is just the right time of year to start thinking about your "stoep!" While cleaning up and planting flowers for your front entrance, you will not only be helping to make our neighborhood more beautiful but might be a cash winner for this year's stoop awards!

- Susanna Sherwood and Ellen Desmond

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# CANALFEST 2006

July 8 & 9

## Riverside Park Events

Canalfest is a two county event held in both Schenectady and Montgomery counties.

Schenectady's portion of the two-day event will be a **Festival of Nations** on Saturday from 11 AM to 7 PM. This favorite Schenectady event will feature food and entertainment provided by the numerous organizations representing the International community in Schenectady.

Sunday's portion is "**Grand Day**." Designed specifically for multi-generation families, the afternoon will include the nationally recognized Castle Players Puppet Show, "Puss & Boots," an original children's opera and a pops concert. The casual setting of Riverside Park will be the perfect setting to enjoy these fine performances.

Other locations for Canalfest are Freedom Park in Scotia, Maalwyck Park in Glenville, Mabee Farm Historic Site in Rotterdam Junction, Riverlink Park in Amsterdam and Schoharie Crossing Historic Site in Fort Johnson. Highlights include Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show at Maalwyck Park, Music Festival at the Mabee Farm and fireworks at Freedom Park on Saturday evening.

For more info call the Chamber (372-5656) or [www.sayschenectady.org](http://www.sayschenectady.org)

## Everyday Art

- Catherine de Salle

I wish for you, this summer, the gentle sound of songbirds just beyond the siren's blare and the grinding of garbage trucks.

A cup of fragrant coffee and quiet conversation beyond loud voices in the street.

A breakfast picnic in the park instead of a sugary donut bolted down in the car. And to take with you in the car the loaded camera, the jacket with pockets big enough for a sketchbook.

I wish for you a sacred place away from the shopping mall, the traffic, and the office. No florescent lights, just the sun at your back, the hum of insects, not a Xerox machine. To feel the earth under your feet, the softness of it, and holding on to that moment, that loveliness, all the day long. To sit within a few feet of one of those geese everyone complains of so you can marvel at the perfect oval of their brown, feathery bodies. The elegance of their ebony throats.

If you are allergic to bees, nervous around dogs, and feel ill sitting in the sun, then I wish you a sheltered piece of garden or a room with a casement window and a view of the river. And take out your writing things, your stamps, your mandolin or your oil colors and sink deep into the afternoon. And leave your things out. At least for the summer, leave them out.

Civic Players presents

## "Over the River and Through the Woods"

May 12, 13, 14 & 17-21

"Over the River and Through the Woods" depicts the passionate, funny, fiercely generational struggle between two sets of Italian grandparents and their beloved, thirty-something grandson Nick. What ensues is an affectionately devious, heart-warming battle for the survival of love, life and family.

Enjoy this show at our local playhouse just down the street at 12 South Church Street for \$12. Curtain is evenings, 8 PM; Sunday matinees, 2:30 PM. Call for tickets, 382-2081.



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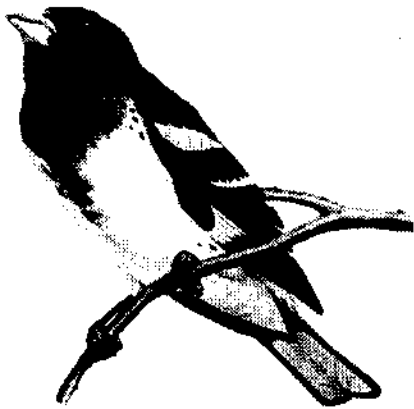


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# Birds of the Stockade

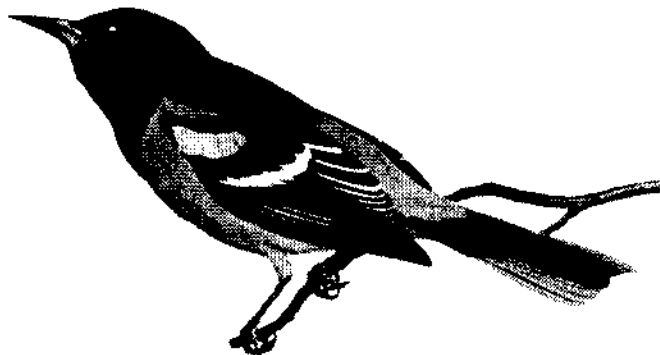


Rose-breasted Grosbeak

With the spring migration underway, new species are arriving every day. Some will stay while others are passing through. Most of the warblers that pass through have colorful names such as Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, American Redstart, and Northern Parula. Some of the birds to keep your eyes and ears open for are the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Baltimore Oriole. The Grosbeak's song is a slow, whistled warble, robinlike but slightly husky quality, without gurgling notes; the pace is steady and slow. The call is a sharp lik, like a rusty gate or sneakers on a gym floor. The Oriole's song is a short series of rich, clear, whistled notes, pidoo tewdi tewdi yewdi tew tidew; variable in pattern, with pauses between each phrase; often gives simple two-note whistle hulee and variations. The call is a dry, harsh, uneven rattle. The female Oriole and Grosbeak also sing as do North Cardinals, Purple Finches and Scarlet Tanagers.

Keep your eyes open for Tree Swallows.

- James L. Taft  
AKA Captain Eagle Eyes



Baltimore Oriole

## "Thank you" to All Spy Staff and Contributors

In working on this issue of May 2006, I wondered just how many issues has it been. I started as *Spy* editor in September 1996. With 9 issues for 10 years that makes for a total of 90 issues of the *Spy*! And it's still fun!

Through the years I have met many wonderful neighbors and enjoyed such interesting and diverse contributions and styles. Without the help of so many neighbors (and many of them unsung heroes and heroines) the newspaper would not be.

So thank you to everyone for your part in bringing neighborhood news and interest stories to our doorways.

Last, but not least, a **big thank you to our loyal advertisers for their interest and financial support.**


- Your Editor, Sylvie Briber

## Calling All Visual Artists!

Exhibit your art at the 55th Annual Villagers' Outdoor Art Show, **Saturday, September 9, 2006 11 AM to 5 PM.** (rain date Sunday, Sept. 10, noon - 5 PM). For rules, judging format, application and more information check the Stockade Website:

[www.historicstockade.com](http://www.historicstockade.com), link to Villager's Art Show.  
Also Matt Volks, President - 381-6322 (MAAJVS@aol.com)  
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# Saucy Jazz and Jazzy Sauce!

- Diane Buckley

Originally the Van Dyck was a formal restaurant quite within the bounds of subdued elegance, Marvin Friedman opened a small new place and GE engineers were seeking lunch. What a match! Jackets and ties were in - women would not even think of wearing pants. That was 1947.

Now? It's a long story of partnerships and changes. Pete Olsen is now sole owner. It's 2006 and he is creating a new ambiance with food, wine and beer. BBQ is in. Even available in a white table clothed dining room.

New to the staff is lovely bar manager Tamara Autelitano. I noticed her hold a bar glass to the light vigorously polishing. Bernard is a proficient and enthusiastic waiter who "enjoys meeting people from all walks of life who cut across borders to create a village atmosphere within the building." Pete thinks his present house staff "the best ever." When I asked him if there was a dress code, he replied, "I prefer that people wear clothes."

BBQ is considered to be America's culinary creation; South Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee vehemently argue proper flavor and ingredients. The Van Dyck recipe is a closely guarded secret. Seriously. It's all in the sauce and only three people have the secret combination.

When I asked about best selling drinks Pete's surprising reply was "It all depends on the night and the music." Jazz: IPA, Bombay Saffire, Martini; Blues: Double Jack Daniels on the Rocks; Folk: wine. Pete thinks of his house staff as "the best ever" and when I asked if he'd do it again the instant reply was an enthusiastic "in a heartbeat."

2007 will be the 60th anniversary of the Van Dyck.

P.S. Pete would welcome any perennial cuttings from overstocked Stockade gardens. Call him if you need help with whatever it takes to get plantings there.

381-1111; [www.thevandyc.com](http://www.thevandyc.com)

## A Little Financial Aid for Ailing Sidewalks and Painting

The Stockade Association has an incentive program to help neighbors with home improvements. A maximum of \$300 per property owner is available for sidewalks. For painting building exteriors readily visible from the public way, the maximum is \$150 per property owner. To be eligible, one must be a paid-up member of the Stockade Association for 2005-6 (See page 3 for membership form.) All sidewalk and painting work must be approved by the Historic District Commission. (see page 9)

## Stockade E-Mail List

**Keep in touch** over the summer with neighborhood news and events by signing on to the Stockade e-mail List. Meetings, entertainment, trash day reminders, and other important tidbits will come right to your inbox. Additionally, since it is an open forum, anyone may also send out information to the group that one thinks is important for all to know, such as crime alerts, notices of lost pets, a call for volunteers, etc. To subscribe send a blank e-mail to:

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# A Story of Two Houses

- Gloria Kishton

Five years ago, Thomas Killeen bought two neighboring houses in the Stockade Historic District, 223 and 221 Green Street, from the estate of John Bradshaw. Kudos to Mr. Killeen for restoring his property at 223 Green Street and to Harold Schneiderwind, a neighbor and historic structures consultant, for securing investment tax credits for Mr. Killeen (*Stockade Spy*, Vol. 47, No. 8, April 2006).

A bit of history: the current house at 221 Green Street was built c. 1850 next to what was then the old Dutch cemetery. In the late 1800's, these early graves were moved to Vale Cemetery, making room for the construction of the brick house at 223 Green Street. Walking by these two neighboring houses today, we see that 221 is an earlier, Federal style, while 223 is a Victorian style, described so well by Mr. Schneiderwind in his *Spy* article last month. The 221 house was the home of Jacob Clute, who probably walked to work at the foundry he and his brother owned on Liberty Street, near the Erie Canal (today's Erie Boulevard). One of their major contributions to the history of our country was the manufacturing of the turret assembly for the Civil War iron clad ship, *Monitor*. This unique assembly was instrumental in winning the famous naval battle with the Confederate ship, *Merrimac*. The craftsmanship of the Clute Brothers greatly influenced the outcome of this Civil War battle.

Our county historian, Don Rittner, has seen evidence suggesting that the stone foundation of the Clute House may predate the Schenectady Massacre. Early settlers may have constructed such stone buildings as storage warehouses outside of the actual stockade walls. After the massacre, Don thinks they may have built upon the ruined stone foundations in the Stockade Historic District. Don has seen evidence of this type of early Dutch style stone wall in only a few other Schenectady buildings.

A bit of recent history: In 2002, Mr. Killeen requested permission from Schenectady's Historic District Commission to demolish 221 Green Street.

The Commission denied his request due to the historic significance of the house, stating that it is "worthy of being preserved." Mr. Killeen contested this decision at the Board of Zoning Appeals, which agreed with the Historic District Commission and also denied his appeal. Since owning it, Mr. Killeen has gutted the house and done several repairs, but its condition is still very much endangered. Last year, Mr. Killeen changed the deed for 223 Green Street, granting it an easement across the skewed property line separating the two parcels in order to ensure access to parking in the backyard. The Schenectady Heritage Foundation has been encouraging Mr. Killeen to restore the Clute House since he purchased it in 1999. In fact, the Foundation developed an incentive program specifically for the restoration of the Clute House and has offered Mr. Killeen (or a different owner, if he sells the house) a \$25,000 grant and a \$40,000, low-interest loan to help restore his house. The Stockade Association has also offered assistance.

In his article, Mr. Schneiderwind describes Tom Killeen as a "restorationist" with a "great feel for how an old building should be preserved." We agree, which is why we anticipate Mr. Killeen will restore 221 Green Street with the same level of quality and care that he showed in restoring 223 Green Street. We also trust he will grant the same easement to ensure parking access in its backyard. The Schenectady Heritage Foundation looks forward to the restoration of this house with great anticipation, as do many Stockade neighbors and preservationists. Mr. Killeen should proceed full-speed-ahead with the restoration of the historic Clute House at 221 Green Street now that its neighbor at 223 Green Street has been restored so beautifully, and the construction season is upon us. May the little Federal house with a big history soon stand proudly along with Mr. Killeen on its block of Green Street.

(Gloria Kishton is Chair of the Schenectady Heritage Foundation.)



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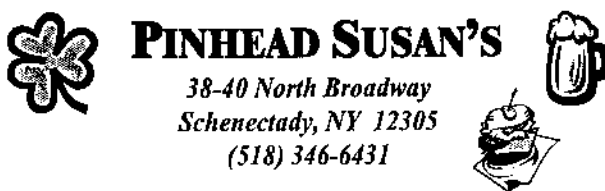
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You can usually pick up a copy of the *Stockade Spy* at: Cafe 1795 at the Indian; The Stockade Inn, corner of N. Church and Union Streets; Slick's, corner of S. Ferry and Liberty Streets and The Van Dyck at 237 Union Street.

The *Spy* is also on the web at: [www.historicstockade.com](http://www.historicstockade.com)

If you consistently do not get a *Spy*, please tell our delivery guy, **Josh Mlodzianowski at 382-7654.**

**Please Be A Good Neighbor:**

- For evening stroller safety during these long nights, keep your porch lights on.
- Avoid honking car horns
- Do not park on sidewalks
- Put trash out only at appropriate times (Please tell new neighbors to check back page of *The Spy* for trash pick-up dates)
- Remove emptied trash containers from streets ASAP
- Help frail neighbors clean their front yards
- Pick up dog poop (in plastic bags)

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