

# THE STOCKADE SPY



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## 55th Annual Stockade Villager's Outdoor Art Show

**Saturday, September 9 11- 5 PM**  
(Rain Date: Sunday, September 10)

September in the Stockade is the place to be - Saturday, September 9th (rain date September 10th), the first Saturday after Labor Day is always a wonderful experience for artists and art lovers in the Stockade. It's that time again when Stockaders will be hosting the 55th Annual Stockade Villager's Outdoor Art Show. The Stockade neighborhood will be welcoming artists from all over the north-east during the time 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on September 9, 2006 (rain date: September 10, 2006 during the hours of noon to 5:00 p.m.). Exhibits of fine art work by artists from near and far will be displayed for art lovers visiting the Stockade. The Stockade Villager's Outdoor Art Show is a judged show. A special highlighted segment of this year's Show will be on Stockade resident artists who will be displaying their art work. Resident artists should contact Connie Colangelo for details.

Over \$1,200.00 in prizes will be awarded!

*(continued on page 2)*

## Walkabout & Waterfront Faire

**Saturday, September 30 11 - 5 PM**



drawing by Werner Leibes

Save the date! A happening in the Stockade and in Schenectady, and for 47 years!!!! This is the day you can actually go inside some of the Stockade homes and learn about their architecture, history, and families.

The homes open are:

- 10 Front Street - Bess and John Chequer
- 17 Front Street - John Samatulski and the Harlow family gardens
- 108 Front Street - Don Mealy
- 2 Riverside Condominiums - Susanna Sherwood and Chris Angione
- 207 Union Street - Gloria Kishton & Robert Lemmerman. Perhaps a mystery house!
- The SCCC archaeological dig in the gardens, 109 Union Street - The Mlodzianowski family

Big thanks go out to all the homeowners for generously opening their homes to visitors.

*(continued on page 11)*

## Arthur's Market and the Village Coffee House

**Introducing Richard Genest**

**- Catherine Norr**

Richard Genest, the new proprietor of Arthur's Market, is passionate about community. His cafe philosophy is, "... a true neighborhood center, where people can socialize and interact. A restaurant is about food," says Richard, "a cafe is about people." Richard's definition of a neighborhood? "a community

large enough to be new and interesting, but small enough for people to get to know each other. The Stockade is just that right balance."

He spent the summer of '68 in Paris. There he discovered cafe society. After finishing work at midnight, he and friends would *(continued on page 7)*

••••• **Stockade General Meeting** Thursday, September 14 **Oct. Spy Deadline** •  
 • 7 PM social, 7:30 PM meeting, Historical Society, 32 Wash. Ave. see p. 3 **Sept. 15** •  
 •••••

(Art Show continued from page 1)

### Categories for Awards

- First Prize \$300.00 plus ribbon  
Second Prize \$200.00 plus ribbon  
Third Prize \$150.00 plus ribbon  
12 Honorable Mentions - \$25.00 plus ribbon
- Student: 1st prize, \$50.00  
2nd prize, \$35.00  
3rd prize \$25.00 plus ribbons
- \$100.00 James Gilliland/George Memorial Award selection and award provided by The Oakroom Artists to honor their long time colleagues
- \$100.00 Nicholas J. Colangelo Award for a first time exhibitor in this show
- \$100.00 Ernest A. R. Cohen Award for "Best of Stockade" artwork depicting the Stockade Neighborhood
- Ribbon People's Choice Award selected by ballot from public (Artwork in judging circle not eligible)

A most unique and special place. The Stockade residents are proud of our neighborhood. Many people will gather on the streets and sidewalks of the Stockade for the day. It is a time to meet old friends and perhaps buy some of the fine art work or just enjoy the day. Stockade residents are encouraged to make their property visitor friendly - pull the weeds and sweep the walks. Share your sidewalk with the artists and the visitors that attend the show. An open, friendly atmosphere is a welcoming venue for the day. A true tribute to the Stockade residents is the fact that they have hosted and encouraged this art show for 55 consecutive years.

**STREET CLOSINGS** - Some Stockade streets (portions of Front, Green and North Ferry Streets) will be closed to all motorized transportation on **Saturday, September 9th (hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)** or the rain date, **Sunday, September 10th from noon to 5:00 p.m.** Cars must be off the streets by 7:00 a.m. (Look for our flyers on your cars to prevent being towed).

Matt Volks is General Chairman/President of the Board of Directors of the Art Show. The Board of the Art Show encourages neighborhood participation and we could use your help. To volunteer (hosts, hostesses -2 hour shifts, workers in the judging circle, set up and take down the show) call Deb Volks (381-6322). Any questions on the show should be directed to Deb Volks at 381-6322. Committee chairs are: Judges: Vivian d'Estienne; Judging Circle: Meredith Anker; Registration: Connie Colangelo; Publicity: Karen B. Johnson; Treasurer: Larry Schmidt. Our Chamber advisor: Gail Kehn.  
Co-Sponsored by The Chamber of Schenectady County.  
- Connie Colangelo

### A Place for Jazz—FALL SCHEDULE



Fridays 8 pm

- Sept. 15 - Winard Harper Sextet  
Sept. 29 - Vivaldi Giacomo Gates  
Oct. 13 - Chris Flory-John Bunch Quartet  
Oct. 27 - David Fathead Newman Quartet  
Nov. 10 - Lee Shaw-Jack Fragomeni Quartet

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# Stockade Association General Meeting

Thursday, September 14

7:00 p.m. Social 7:30 Meeting

Speaker: **Bob Buccieri**

executive director of The Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corp.  
"A New Canal Village"

All Stockade Neighbors Invited

The Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave. Entrance is in back

## The Stockade Association Membership 2006 - 2007

The Stockade Association has been carrying out its mission, "the protection and improvement of the properties" within its boundaries, for 49 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, 2006 to September 30, 2007. \$15 per person, \$20 per household. \$**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_ e mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

David Lowry, Secretary

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

## Minutes of the General Meeting Stockade Association May 11, 2006 Schenectady County Historical Society

President Joe Fava called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.. About 40 members were present. Joe asked and received a motion to approve the minutes of the previous general meeting, 3/9/06. With that comment Joe asked for and received a vote approving those minutes. He asked for a Treasurer's report from Lyn Gordon. She reported the total income since Aug 30, 2005, was \$17,682.42 and total expenses were \$17,025.66. We have recently purchased a \$5000 CD. The checking account balance is presently \$13,262.80. Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was Moved, seconded and passed.

The first item of business was presented by Ellen Desmond, who identified the stoop awardees named by the Stockade Garden Group for outstanding efforts in beautification. Awards were won this year by Fred Heitkamp (\$100), Patty Dumas (\$50), and Janie and Bob Hayner (\$25).

Several announcements were made:

- Ellen Desmond also announced the spring planting and stoop judging schedule for the Garden Group.
- Lyn Gordon reported that planning for the Walkabout was proceeding very satisfactorily and identified and thanked several people who are taking on substantial responsibility. She said the event could always use more volunteers.
- Sylvie Briber said that the May issue of the SPY is the last for the summer, and thanked all the participants and all the advertisers - in this year's SPY.
- Gloria Kishton reported that the Schenectady Heritage Foundation is trying to incorporate a "mini-rehab" fair for the Walkabout, to identify contractors who work on older houses.

- Joe announced that a citywide meeting of neighborhood groups on June 20 and commented on the Sidewalk sale scheduled for Saturday June 3.
- Diane DeMeo asked that if anybody knows of vendors who would like to participate in Kerst Kermis scheduled for Dec 3, that they let her know.

Steve Strichman discussed the question of a dock in Riverside Park. He said if one were installed it would be a seasonal dock, similar to that by the Union College boat house. Jean Zegger commented that in 1986 the Stockade Association resolved that we are unalterably opposed to a dock in Riverside Park and Jennifer Wells said that position had been validated in 1997. Steve said they have a little money to pay for such a dock, and if the Association favors it they should act promptly.

Lyn Gordon, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced that the Committee nominated David Lowry, Carol DeLaMarter and John Samatulski for positions on the Stockade Board, replacing Lily Alvarez, Fred Kindl and Bob Preville. Peter Rumora and Diane DeMeo were nominated to renew their terms. No other nominations were received, and the nominees were elected without dissent.

The speaker for the evening was Don Rittner, Schenectady City and County Historian. He gave an exciting and inspiring talk about the historical significance of the area. He is currently trying to find the path of the Saratoga-Schenectady Railroad which according to records ran behind several Washington Ave. houses to the present location of the bus station. He said that Jack McDonald, at 25 Washington Ave., is allowing him to excavate in his backyard, in hopes of finding tangible evidence of a trench or tunnel dug there. Mr. Rittner also described other historical artifacts and buildings he had identified, and said

(continued on page 5)



**Classes Begin  
Tuesday,  
Sept. 5**

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BARBARA & MICHAEL NAUMOFF

(Neighborhood News continued from page 4)

in several different ways that we have resources in the Stockade that are unlike any in the world. The group peppered him with questions and showed great enthusiasm for his findings and concepts.

Dale Miller described the work he and others have done in developing plaques for houses in the Stockade, and he displayed an artist's rendering of one. The group expressed enthusiasm for his plan and the drawing. Dale said they will continue to work through the Historical Society, and we need to spell out the criteria necessary for a house to display a plaque.

The group turned to unsavory activity some had witnessed in the Stockade. Barbara Sauer said that she had been accosted at 5 p.m. two weeks ago. Ellen Desmond made the point others repeated, that the YW did a good job with women but it was the men hanging around - spouses or whatever - who were the problem. Marilyn Sassi said that she had lived across the street from the YW when they introduced the battered-women program, and "all hell broke loose."

Joe said - as he has said many times before - that if you see something wrong, call the police. He asked that "if you see something wrong, call the police" be included on the SPY.

Joe reported that the YMCA is working on moving its residents out in order eventually to change their building into student housing. Plans are proceeding to turn the former MVP building into student housing. Frank Gilmore described efforts to upgrade the buildings; the YMCA Board seems interested. Joe said that officials seem really to want these changes to happen.

Joe turned the discussion to the YWCA's proposed new CHILDREN AND MOMS PROGRAM project. David Lowry introduced the following resolution, which was Moved, Seconded and Passed after vigorous discussion, by a vote of 21 positive, 2 negative, and 3 abstentions:

"A Resolution in Opposition to Placing Women Who Would Otherwise be Incarcerated into the Mary Hill House."

"Whereas, the neighborhood in Schenectady, NY known as "the Stockade" is on the National Register of Historic Places and a vital part of the revitalization of downtown Schenectady.

"Whereas, the rehabilitation and maintenance of the many fine historic homes in the Stockade is dependent upon attracting persons with the means to make such improvements while preserving the historical integrity of the homes in compliance with the strict guidelines of the Schenectady Historical Commission;

"Whereas, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) proposes to house women who would otherwise be incarcerated at the Mary Hill House on Washington Ave. in the Stockade;

"Whereas, such a proposal will discourage the continued investment in the many historic homes of the Stockade and will hamper further revitalization efforts, thus placing the long-term preservation of these historic structures at risk;

"Whereas, there is already a high concentration of similar social services in the Stockade, and that there are much more appropriate locations in the city of Schenectady and Schenectady County than a National Historic District to place such services;

"Whereas, among the stated official objectives of the Stockade Association are to "promote the community interest" and "enhance the safety and security of the Stockade Historic District;"

"Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stockade Association actively opposes the proposal by the YWCA to house women who would otherwise be incarcerated in the Mary Hill House."

After discussion and the passage of this motion, Greg Sauer moved, it was seconded and passed that "We authorize the Board to get legal action to pursue this issue actively." Connie Colangelo urged the group to speak at a City Council meeting, which she said would have an important effect.

Respectfully submitted  
Bob Briber

(Neighborhood News continued on page 6)

**Glenn J. Witecki**  
*Attorney*


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*You are always welcome!*

*(Neighborhood News continued)*

**The June and July board minutes have been edited because of space limitations. For a full copy of the official minutes please contact the board secretary, Dave Lowry at [stockadedave@nycap.rr.com](mailto:stockadedave@nycap.rr.com)**

### **June Board Meeting**

The June 7, 2006 Meeting commenced at 7:10 p.m. Steve Strichman of the city Planning Department informed the board that the city was willing, through a grant from the New York State Canal Corporation, to install seasonal docks in the Stockade if it was acceptable to the board and residents. He suggested Ingersoll Ave. as an appropriate location. After discussion, John suggested a special meeting so residents could voice their concerns. A meeting date of June 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. was set by the board to discuss the dock issue.

The Board then welcomed Reza Mahoutchian, of Maxim Engineering. Reza informed the board that he purchased and renovated 13 properties in the Stockade and that he recently purchased the MVP building, which included the Old Court House on Union St. He explained to the board that he had rejected a purchase offer by United Campus Housing because of its complex nature. He then informed the board he is returning to his original plan to convert the building into office space and will move his offices from Saratoga County to the new facility. Joe raised concerns about the effects on parking in the Stockade, informing Reza that parking was very difficult when MVP used those offices. Reza also informed the board that he officially requested the Old Court House be placed under the authority of the historic district commission for which it has been exempt since the Lawrence Insurance Group owned it.

Dale Miller informed the board he is still working on the issue of the Erie Blvd. crossings both at Union and Liberty Streets and that city officials wanted to wait until the commencement of the 2007 Erie Blvd. rehabilitation plan. Joe informed the board that plans continued to move the Bus Station at State and Church Street to the Train Station on Erie Blvd.

The board then approved financing for the cleaning of historic markers (\$120) and half the costs for the installation of a waterline to the Indian Statue (\$1500).

Joe informed the board that Bob Briber had resigned as treasurer and a committee moved to replace him with new board director Dave Lowry. The Board then assigned various members to the following committees: Dave, Mary and Peter to a special committee to find a new board member; Joe, Carol, Lyn,

Peter, and Dave to Finance. John, Carol, Lyn and Joe to Membership.

Dave, as Chair of the Mary Hill House Committee appointed by Joe, informed the board of the committee's actions thus far. The committee has met twice and decided first to quietly work with city officials to determine the best approach. Also the committee, on behalf of the board, drafted a letter to all YWCA board members stating the Association's position on the matter along with a copy of the resolution passed by the membership at the May meeting. The letter will also be sent to the City Council, County Legislature, the Mayor, other local officials as well as State and Federal legislators.

The next meeting date was set for July 12. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

### **July Board Meeting**

The July 12, 2006 meeting commenced at 7:15p.m.. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed; minor changes were suggested.

Lyn Gordon gave the treasurers report: Checking balance, 11,466.23, CD, \$25,972.03.

Joe Fava then turned the meeting to new business by suggesting that all guests will be allowed 10 minutes of speaking time. Gloria suggested that those with important topics be given more time if necessary. Lyn suggested in such cases to hold a special meeting. Joe also informed the members that any neighborhood person will be allowed to speak at the Association meetings.

Lyn Gordon then led a discussion about the Stockade footprint. She informed the board members that about 20 Stockade properties that were inside the footprint had been excluded or removed from the historic zoning rules and regulations over the years. Lyn then informed the Association she is planning a project to complete an architectural "blue sheet" on each of the 20 properties and keep the members updated on the project.

John then led a discussion concerning how the Association should approach the city of Schenectady on key issues. After discussion, it was agreed the creation of an informal, flexible plan would prove beneficial.

Dave then gave a report on the Mary Hill House situation. He informed the Association that the Mary Hill House Committee had met several times during the past month. Also, a letter was sent to the YWCA requesting a copy of the Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) application, which is the funding source for the program.

Gloria updated the *(continued on page 7)*

(Neighborhood News continued from page 6)

members on the status of 221 Green Street, a structure the Schenectady Heritage Foundation has been working to save. Gloria informed the members that the Heritage Foundation will award a \$25,000 grant and a \$40,000 low interest loan to any potential purchasers, however, it is unclear if the current owner is interested in selling the property. John and Joe offered to approach the owner on the current status of the property. The board discussed donating funds, especially since it would prove a good public relations vehicle but Peter reminded the board they must get approval from the full membership.

(Arthur's Market continued from page 1)

explore the city and all night cafes, discussing, sharing, laughing. "If you think about it," Richard says, "all people really need is a happy village."

Richard found the same sort of community in San Francisco in the late 1970's. It was there that he asked himself the question, "What do I really want to do?" The answer was "Open cafes." He has been doing it ever since, first in Ithaca, then Albany, now Schenectady. His "ABC Cafe" (Apple Blossom Cafe) near Cornell University is still going strong after 28 years.

"Arthur's Market is the heart of this community," says Richard. "I use the name to honor Arthur Polachek, owner of what is now the oldest continuously running market in the United States. He made me feel welcome and never forgot my name from the first day we sat down together."

Genest envisions a neighborhood market/cafe. It will carry basic grocery needs, such as bread, milk, eggs, cat food, diapers and... newspapers. There will be shelving around the perimeter - no center aisle. In the middle will be tables, chairs, sofas, "a cozy living room for people to get together."

Neighbors are invited to give suggestions to Richard - either in person - or by sending e mail to [dan@rkstar.com](mailto:dan@rkstar.com). He has already been fielding many requests, from peanut butter to sushi! Richard is very approachable. In his own words he is, "a friendly neighborhood person, easy to talk to."

Cafe offerings will lean toward healthy meals but will not be completely vegetarian, as is Moon and River's menu. There will also be salad plates with tuna and sharp provolone, a nice turkey salad, an occasional fish chowder, grilled ham and swiss sandwiches. Richard has a frugal nature, and keeps expenses down both for himself and his customers.

Richard will run both Moon and River Cafe, which is open 4:00 p.m. - 11 p.m. with live music nightly, and Arthur's. This is made easier by the establishments being only two blocks apart. "Arthur's has its own

The Members then discussed the proposed installation of seasonal docks on the riverfront at Riverside Park. The members discussed the idea of taking a complete survey of the entire stockade residency. After discussion it was agreed a mailing with a door-to-door follow-up would prove the best approach.

Lyn, then reported that plans for the "Walk about" were on track.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.



Riverside Park *Cafe on the River* Schenectady  
Richard Genest

distinct personality," says Richard. He wants to return to the 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. hours. It will be quieter, in keeping with the residential location. He would like to have music for Sunday Brunch, maybe quiet jazz at dinner and is seeking a donated piano.

Richard Genest has many other community minded accomplishments under his belt. During the two and a half years that Moon and River has been open, he has shown many local artists' work on the walls of the cafe. He opened Village Books and Art in the empty storefront across from Moon and River, held a benefit for Channel 16 that raised over \$2,000, leads tours of historic Schenectady, and most recently, began a series of outdoor "happenings" at his "Cafe on the River" at Riverside Park. End of Summer Party at "Cafe on the River" Tues. Sept. 5, 7 - 10 p.m., music by StringDusters at 8 p.m.

"Americans have a choice to make between a corporate or a human environment," says Richard. "When people recognize, acknowledge, listen to, and appreciate one another, it's like rocket-fuel for the soul."

"I have such a creative urge that has been rekindled by my love for the Stockade," says Richard. "I could not pass up this new opportunity. When I opened Moon and River, I called it 'my retirement cafe' - now I'm calling Arthur's 'my revival cafe.'"

## 1st Annual

# Schenectady Heritage Foundation Preservation Fair - Gloria Kishton

Schenectady Heritage Foundation is sponsoring a Preservation Fair as part of the Stockade Walkabout this year on Saturday, September 30. The event will take place in a large tent at the Waterfront Faire in Riverside Park from 12 noon till 5p.m..

The Preservation Fair will be a trade show style venue where selected contractors, businesses and organizations will exhibit products and services that advance historic preservation. Exhibitors will share their expertise on a variety of topics and will disseminate information that will help property owners preserve their historic buildings.

Schenectady Heritage Foundation hopes the Preservation Fair will educate people about new products and recommended methods of preserving historic structures. Contractors who work on historic properties will exhibit at the Fair, offering a very welcome resource for property owners. The Foundation is particularly excited about the participation of the Schenectady Historic District Commission, the government appointed board that oversees Schenectady's six historic districts. This is a "must see" exhibit for anyone owning property in one of Schenectady's historic districts, where special zoning laws apply.

This is the first year the Foundation is organizing and sponsoring the Preservation Fair, but plans to

continue and improve it in years to come. So, if you've been pondering how to fix that broken brownstone step, or how to snake new wiring through old plaster walls, or where to find replacement house parts, come to the Preservation Fair and get the answer!

Recommendations on contractors, organizations, products or methods that help to preserve historic architecture and places are welcome and can be e-mailed to the Foundation's bulletin board at: heritagefoundation@yahoo.com. Or, send suggestions to the Foundation at P.O. Box 1173, Schenectady, NY 12301 1173.

*(Participation in the Preservation Fair does not necessarily constitute endorsement by the Schenectady Heritage Foundation.)*



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## 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.

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### You may need to file an application

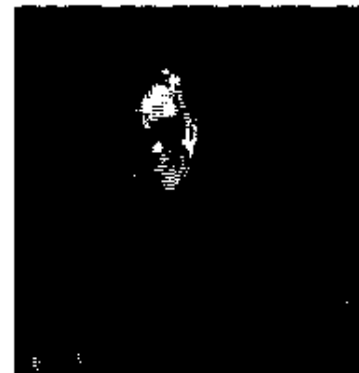
If you are planning outside repairs and painting, **including those that are identical to what was there before**, you may need to file an application. Any repairs, painting, or sidewalk replacement **seen from the public right of way** must have approval from the Schenectady Historic Commission. Applications, full deadline and meeting schedule, and further information are available from Cari Hourigan, 382-5054

(CHOURIGAN@GMAIL.COM) 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:

Application deadline	Review meeting
September 4	September 18
October 2	October 16
November 6	November 20
December 4	December 18

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# East Front Street News - BL's Tavern - Mary Ann Ruscitto

Photo by Mary Ann Ruscitto



Come take a look!!! Frank Yates and staff have been very busy with renovation!!! Stop in and see this beautiful place. Step back in time with the beautiful bar and tin ceiling. If you are a sports fan, this is the place to be. Three TVs are going at all times with basketball, football or baseball showing.

The building was constructed in 1902 on a lot that was owned by John J. Yates (no relation to the current owner.) The land was purchased by George Clemanski from August Glock in January of 1900. The building was constructed two years later. The City Directory of 1904 shows that Tony Sokolinski operated a tavern at 208 Front St. In 1915 Joseph Martini ran the tavern and at that time there were seventeen bars on Front St. between College St. and Nott St!

In the 1917 City Directory it shows that the owner of the building was Julius Bucci. However, from January 19, 1917 until December 5, 1933, the Bucci brothers ran the tavern as a speakeasy. In 1933 208 Front St. was known as Julius' Grill and Restaurant. Along with Julius' Grill there was Al's Tavern, now Uncle Ben's at 222 Front St.; Jack's Tavern at the corner of Front and Jefferson Sts. later called the Guard House and then called the Corner Tavern; Columbus Tavern was at 235 Front St.; and Willie's Restaurant was at 236 Front St.

On January 15, 1946 Nicola Bucci sold the tavern business to Benny Lenciewicz for \$4,000 and it became known as BL's Restaurant. On November 15, 1952 Benny purchased the building from Emily Perreca. He had been leasing the tavern from Vincent and Emily Perreca for \$40 a month. On May 1, 1953 New York State issued a Restaurant Liquor License to Benny and his brother in law Stephan Matarazzo. Benny and his wife Theresa ran the restaurant with Steve and his wife Filomena, (Theresa's sister) until October 1, 1956. The license remained under Benny's name until his death, November 27, 1979.

On May 29, 1980 the license was endorsed to Theresa. On October 1, 1982 a license was issued to Theresa Lenciewicz and Frank Yates.

The license was endorsed to Frank on October 22, 1985 when the partnership was dissolved.

On August 21, 1985 there was a fire in the second floor front apartment. The tavern remained closed until November due to water damage. Theresa died November 19, 1985. The upstairs apartments remained vacant and damaged until January of 1005 when extensive repair work began. The bar and restaurant was closed from March 6, 2006 until May 1, 2006 for renovations.

At the present time, BL's has a great menu consisting of appetizers including Armadillo eggs, breaded mushrooms and BL's famous chicken wings - 10 wings for \$6.00 or 20 wings for \$11.50, hot or mild sauce - and mozzarella sticks. BL's also has deli sandwiches (baked ham, roast beef or roasted turkey breast). From BL's Grill you can get the best hamburger in the City!! The "Ramsey" deluxe burger (1 pound) served on a toasted roll with bacon, lettuce, tomato, choice of American, cheddar, blue cheese, provolone or Swiss cheese, served with chips, for only \$5.25!!

Along with the renovation of the Tavern, Frank Yates plans on expanding his menu to include many more tasty items. So stop in and try one of these items, have a nice cold drink and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere. Take a look at the pictures that are hung on the walls of many of the people in the neighborhood who have enjoyed BL's.

Frank is offering an **ART SHOW SPECIAL: GOULASH, TOSSED SALAD, AND BREAD FOR \$5.00.** So stop in after enjoying the Art Show and have a great lunch.

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(Walkabout continued from page 1)

Featured this year are several fine federal style homes, a grand Victorian and some other surprises thrown in! Our three historic churches will be open, along with the YWCA. Some local restaurants will be open for lunch and dinner and music. The Historical Society has a new exhibit: "A Desirable Residence: Schenectady and the Erie Canal," plus their regular exhibit: "Schenectady: The First 200 Years." Special tours in the Stockade include one to the original Erie Canal site, and architectural tours. (see page 14)

Besides the house tour there will be carriage rides around the quaint streets and historical characters greeting you and telling their stories.

Down at Riverside Park enjoy the Waterfront Faire in its fourth year! New this year will be the **Schenectady Faire** with artisans demonstrating olden day skills. Also new, is the **Preservation Fair** with skilled craftsmen showing you how to do historic preservation ( see page 8). Another addition is an encampment with re-enactors in costume. New also are the Old English Country Dancers, stepping to live music. And there will be boat rides and boat parades on the Mohawk, and a food festival, Kids Fun Zone,

and crafters in the Park. The pump station will also be open for tours.

For visitors, free parking is conveniently available at SCCC's parking lot with a free trolley ride into the Stockade. Tickets are \$15 in advance, and \$20 the day of the event with children (12 and under) \$7. To purchase tickets by phone, call 377-9430, credit cards accepted, or visit the Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue, (374-0263), Mon.-Fri., 1-5 PM, Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 4 PM. If you would like to volunteer for 2 hours, you will receive a free ticket as a thank you.

This event is presented by the Stockade Association in partnership with the Schenectady County Historical Society and the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation.

See you there for a special September day in the Stockade!

- Sylvie Briber

## Stockade Neighborhood Party

The First Annual Stockade Neighborhood Party was hosted by Green Street residents Julie and Neil Ecklund the evening of Tuesday, August 1.

Originally scheduled for Riverside Park by the cannon, blistering temperatures hovering close to 100 degrees forced the relocation of the picnic supper to the air-conditioned home of event chairperson Julie White Ecklund. Assisting Julie in planning the successful event were committee members Karen Johnson, Lily Alvarez, Mary Seider, Chris Waldron and Beverly Elander.

About 60 Stockade residents, many who had never met each other face-to-face, chatted and feasted on dishes prepared by their neighbors. "Chef" Neil Ecklund grilled hamburgers for the entire group.

Mayor Brian U. Stratton, and City Council Members Margaret King and Mark Blanchfield stopped by to speak informally with Stockaders. Police Chief Michael Geraci and two of his staff also dropped in to show support for our neighborhood.

Music, sponsored by Richard Genest of Moon and River Cafe, was provided by vibraphonist Dennis McCafferty. Residents had such a good time that we left with thoughts of next year's Neighborhood Night Out.

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# An Unexpected Visitor on June 28th

- Helen Witts



Ingersoll Avenue

We had a huge surprise this summer on June 28th when the Mohawk River decided to show its mighty power and rise and come over the banks into our streets, cellars and homes. This is the second time since records were kept that we had a flood during the summer. What could we expect with all the rain we had north and west of us. The first flood came about the same time on a Fourth of July weekend in the 1970's, but it only came on to the park and didn't go into the streets very much - just in the middle and a little ways up.

The crest of the flood of June 28th was 226.5 and it came on June 29th at noon on Thursday (a crest is determined two hours after the water from the river levels. So this flood started to level between 9 and 10 AM, so noon was the crest.) We were lucky in a way that it receded so fast as it usually takes a long time because, usually when a flood comes without an ice jam in the winter months, it takes a lot longer to go down. When a flood occurs with

an ice jam, the minute the ice jam starts to breakup the water starts to recede.

This flood was scary because we heard nothing of what was going on. We didn't hear how fast it was rising, or anything else.

According to the *Daily Gazette* there is a plan in place. Wouldn't it be nice if we're told of this plan before the flood not after reading it in the paper. We were supposed to have a meeting but it never happened. We did have two firemen on duty on each street and they said they knew nothing of what was going on. If you ran into someone from the Management Office you might have heard something.

Yes, we had a boat on Ingersoll Ave. to evacuate people if they wanted to go. The neighbors had to help the firemen to operate the boat.

At one time, years ago, plans were made ahead of time, elderly senior names, addresses were given to now Captain Farstad, (then Lieutenant) so he could




North Street

keep track of them in case water started to raise rapidly. They would have to be evacuated first, but now I wonder who knew any of us were around. Anyone over 60 years of age, handicapped or very ill were on this list. These lists came from street leaders, so no one was missed.

We also had RACE's, an amateur radio association of volunteers who would monitor the river at each gauge where needed from Lock 7 to Lock 15. So we even knew what was going on upstream, downstream. What a wonderful team of men they were - nothing held them back.

*(flood story continued on page 13)*



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Photo by Gerald Plante



Bench surrounded by water at Riverside

Here is some information prepared by the National Weather Service that might interest you:

**Impacts:**

- 232.0 Water reaches Broadway and the former Alco Plant Area on Maxon Road.
- 226.0 Water floods two houses past half way up portions of Ingersoll Ave., Ferry St. and North St.
- 224.0 Water starts to enter the Stockade neighborhood between Ingersoll Ave. and Ferry St.
- 223.0 Water begins to enter Riverside Park in the Stockade Area.
- 222.0 Water approaches Ingersoll Ave. & Riverside Park.
- 220.0 Water floods access ramp to the College under the Western Gateway Bridge.
- 219.0 Water gets close to the access ramp to Schenectady County Community College that goes under the Western Gateway Bridge.
- 217.0 Pumping is needed to keep water out of the Community College Parking lot.
- 216.0 The river is about four feet above e normal
- 215.0 The river is about three feet above normal
- 214.0 The river is slightly above its normal pool elevation.
- 213.0 The river is at its normal pool elevation.

The average floods we had over the years from 1913 to the present were 223.5 in April 1993 and 226.5 on June 28, 2006. These floods were called "Moderate Flooding."

**Top 5 Historical Crests:**

- 1. 232.9 ft. on 3/28/1914
- 2. 229.2 ft. on 3/19/1936
- 3. 228.9 ft. on 3/28/1913
- 4. 228.0 ft. on 1/19/1996
- 5. 227.7 ft. on 3/15/1929

P.S. On July 22, 2006 we once again hear the Mohawk River out west at Canajoharie, Fonda and Herkimer is "bank full". What will it do to the Mohawk River at Schenectady? Pretty much looks full when it recedes! How many more scares will we have this year? Just an afterthought!

## New Marker Notes History of First Reformed Church

An historical marker now stands in front of the First Reformed Church at the corner of Union and North Church Streets in the Stockade. The sign reads, "Dutch Church. Founded before 1680. First Mohawk Valley Church. From its Academy of 1785 grew Union College 1795".

The founding of the church refers to the existence of a congregation. The current church building exterior was completed in 1865 after a fire destroyed the previous one. The current sanctuary inside dates from 1948 when another fire destroyed the interior.

All are welcome to the 8:00 and 10:00 Sunday morning services in Poling Chapel and the main sanctuary respectively.

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# A Walk With Richard

- Beverly Elander

Despite my arthritic knees, I decided to walk the walk and listen to the talk by Stockade resident/businessman (owner/operator of Moon and River Cafe' on South Ferry Street) Richard Genest.

The theme for this day's leisurely stroll back in local history was the relationship between the S&S Railroad and the Stockade. Leaving from the Café one noon in May, about a dozen of us (shod in sensible shoes) made our first stop on State Street near South Church where Richard pointed out the location of the Saratoga and Schenectady Railway Subway (1832-1838) between old Mill Lane and (aptly-named) Railroad Avenue.

Photo by Beverly Elander



18 century Dutch barn

The Subway ducked behind a still standing 18th century barn on S. Church Street, and we picked it up again by noting the marker on the home at 12 Union Street.

According to Tour Guide

Genest, the ride from Schenectady to Saratoga took 90 minutes and carried 100 people.

The Subway path could be seen again, as a sunken portion of Jack McDonald's property on 7 Washington Avenue, the site of a possible future archeological dig.

Laughingly referring to the Subway as "Schenectady's Second Big Ditch," Richard reminded the folks on the tour that the Subway went underground only when it crossed streets otherwise it was located in a trench.

Our walk led us to a "secret" garden on the Binnekil (off Washington Avenue), once Anne Street and site of the commercial trading center (notably fur and grain) for the City from 1660 to 1820, when "downtown" was moved inland. The Erie Canal (now Erie Boulevard) was built in 1825.

Cucumber Alley, originally connecting Anne and Front Streets, was our next stop. At the end of Washington Avenue we visited the site of the foundation for the first bridge across the Mohawk River, built in 1803. This bridge was an integral part of the railway path from New York City all the way to California.

From the former bridge site at Riverside Park, it was just a few steps to the brick-walled enclosed Governor Yates home, which boasts a swimming pool. One time also a men's room house, the property used to extend all the way to the Mohawk River, and includ-

(continued on page 15)

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(A Walk With Richard continued from page 14)

ed a two-story boathouse with a ramp and dock which were open to the public.

Although our walk ended all too soon at Front Street and Governor's Lane, Richard will reprise the event Saturday, September 30 at noon and again at 2 o'clock with two 45-minute tours entitled "The Village Beautiful-an Architectural Walking Tour of America's Most Intact Historic Neighborhood: the Schenectady Stockade" will be a featured event at this year's Walkabout.

Photo by Severin Elender



Richard Genest giving tour

## Remembering Anne Bradbury

Anne Glenn Bradbury died Friday, August 11 at Kingsway Arms Nursing Center. She was 96.

Anne was born July 16, 1916 in Louisville, Kentucky. She was the daughter of John I. Glenn, a minister, and Lois Glenn who was born in Tokyo, Japan to missionary parents and taught piano and wrote music criticism for the distinguished *Louisville Courier Journal*.

Anne attended Barnard College in New York City from which she graduated in 1935. She married John Bradbury, a scholar of southern literature, who was a professor at Union College for 17 years and pre-deceased her in 1969. Anne was a most active faculty wife as she made an extraordinary impact on Union College by promoting the contemporary visual arts. She and John brought first rate exhibits to the College from New York City galleries and in many cases arranged for the artists to give lectures. This eventually led to Union College establishing an Art Department which included both the visual arts and music. During the Second World War Anne learned how to fly, got a pilot's license and worked in flight control which at that time was just developing techniques for instrument take-off and landing. In the 70's and 80's Anne traveled the world extensively, no tours but by herself. She was an aficionado of history and beautifully photographed all the cultures with which she made contact. She wrote for travel magazines and the travel section of *The Christian Science Monitor* for whom she concentrated on Turkey and Morocco. Here in Schenectady she will always be remembered as the most gracious hostess of her never to be forgotten parties.

Anne Bradbury was pre-deceased by her sister, Jane Rutherford of Paris, France. She is survived by three nieces all of Paris, France: Anni Borzeix, Cristi Cohen, and Nina Rutherford.

Anne spent the majority of her life in her home and garden in the Historic Stockade District which she loved. Memorial contributions may be made to the Schenectady Heritage Foundation, Anne Bradbury Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1173, Schenectady, New York 12301-1173. A gathering to remember Anne will be held at a later date.



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

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- For evening stroller safety, 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 poops (in plastic bags)

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James D. J. Schmitt

**Designer**  
Werner L. Feibes

**First Editor**  
Barrie C. Covert

**September Waste Collection Dates**

**Friday, Sept. 1**

**Mondays, Sept. 11, 18, 25**

Waste Collection starts at 6:15 AM. Please put waste on the curb only **after 2 p.m.** the day before. To help keep our neighborhood beautiful, please remove trash cans ASAP from the street when emptied.