

December 2006 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 48 No. 4

# Tree Lighting & Kerst Kermis - Sunday, Dec. 3

Stockade at the annual Tree Lighting and Kerst Kermis one of the most special events of the year.

The day is Sunday, December 3 and at 5:30

pm neighbors and friends will gather fround Lawrence Park, at the coming together of Front, Ferry and Green Streets, and celebrate the season. This year the trees have been generously. provided by the Mealy family. Rev. McSwain of St. George's Church will give the Benediction, and Arthur Polachek will be our honored guest to light the trees. Bruce Holden will tickle the keys and lead the candlelit carol singing, Mrs. Santa Claus (Mabel Leon) has taken time out of her busy schedule and will arrive on a llama powered sleigh loaded with candy canes and good cheer. The reception that follows will be held at Arthur's Market Cafe with more caroling with Bruce leading at the old piano.

We need donations of food to make the reception party

successful. Please drop them off at the cafe before the event.

The **Kerst Kermis** "Dutch Bazaar" is also the same day as the tree lighting celebrated at the Stockade Inn and The Van Dyck Restaurant. An

Light up your holidays with the spirit of the outstanding display of handmade creations at the Van Dyck by area artists include wreaths, pottery, candles, jewelry designs, knitwear, stained glass, wood designs and much more.

Enjoy an old fashioned carriage i ride or stroll through our historic neighborhood. The Stockade Inn is hosting a Holiday Brunch and music by members of the Mohonasen B Select Orchestra from 10 AM to 2 PM, \$23.50. Or just shop and have coffee or a cocktail at the Van Dyck. \$3.00.

We appreciate your support at this Stockade Association event bringing the neighborhood? together and raising money for our organization. We also thank Marshall and Sterling Insurance for their sponsorship. For tickets or info, call Diane DeMeo. 372-0642. Also please see flyer on page 9.



sketch from the December 1969 Spy Does anyone know who the artist is?

### Schedule:

10 am-2 pm Brunch, Stockade Inn. 11 am-5pm Graft Fair, Van Dyck 5:30 pm Tree Lighting Ceremony.

at the Indian, Front & Ferry

6:00 Neighborhood Gathering at Arthur's Market Caroling, Warm Refreshments, Good Cheer! 7:30 Rockstar Open Mic Open to all musicians, poets, comics, hosted by Dan Goodspeed

# Things are really heating up and cooking at Arthur's Market!

Now serving eggs, omelets and fresh sandwiches! 8 AM - 4 PM Daily

Jan. Spy Deadline Dec. 15

## Calendar in and Around the Stockade

## The Open Door Bookstore & Gift Gallery

128 Jay St., 346-2719

- <u>Sat., Dec. 2 12-1:30 pm.</u> Artist **Will Moses** will sign his illustrated classic, "The Night Before Christmas." Also, at 1 2:30pm **Jennifer Armstrong** will sign her new children's books, "Once Upon a Banana," & "The American Story:100 true Tales from American History."
- <u>Sunday. Dec. 3 1-2:30 pm</u>. **Phil Brown** signing "Bob Marshall in the Adirondacks:Writings of a Pioncoring Peak-Bagger, Pond Hopper and Wilderness Preservationist."
- \*Sunday, Dec. 10, 1-2:30 pm, Ann Burg will sign "Rebekkah's Journey: A World War II Refugee Story." \*Sundays, Dec. 3 & 10, 1 3.pm. Crafts for Klds. Stop by and make seasonal crafts and greeting cards with art therapist, graphic designer, Heather Hutchison.
- Thursday, Dec. 14, Friday, Dec. 15, 4-9, Magic & Melodies. Downtown holiday open house celebration featuring a variety of performances and activities. Open Door has a complete schedule of events! special discounts, drawings, and refreshments during this event. Hours after Thanksgiving:

Mon.-Fri. 10-9; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 12-5.

# Schenectady County Community College

78 Wash. Ave. 381 1250 www.sunyscco.edu - full list

- SCCC Chorus & Vocal Chamber Ensemble Concert, Monday, Dec. 4, 7:30 pm, Auditorium, Free.
- SCCC Jazz Ensemble & Percussion Ensemble Concert, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7:30 pm, Aud. Free.
- Holiday Craft Fair, Thursday, Dec. 7, 11:30 am-6 pm, Elston Hall, Van Gurler/Lally Mohawk Rms. Free.
- SCCC Woodwind Chamber Ensembles Concert, Monday, Dec. 11, 7:30pm, Eiston Hall, Lally Rm. Free.
- Musicians of Mafalwyck Concert Preview, Tucsday, December 12, 11:30 am, Begley Building, Room 160, Free.
- African Market Place, Thursday, Dec. 14, 10-2 pm Elston Hall, student Criter
- Kwanzaa Celebration, Thursday, Dec. 14, 11:30 am, Elston Hall, Van Curler Room, Free.

## Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Avenue 374-0263, call for details

- New Exhibit Dec. 1 Jan. 31
- "Thomas Nast: Creating Christmas"
- Saturday, December 9, Lecture/slides: "The Forgotten Holidays" Presenter, Peter Rose, back by popular demand! Practices brought here by the Dutch settlers

# "Catch Me If You Can"

at Sch'dy Civic Players Dec. 8, 9, 10 & 13-17

"Catch Me If You Can," which has nothing to do with the Tom Hanks-Leonardo DiCaprio movie of the same name, is an intriguing hybrid of humor and edge-of-your-seat mystery. The story is a con game of ever widening circles, enveloping more and more characters until a surprise endgame is revealed.

This spellbinder is playing right here in our own backyard at 12 South Church at the Schenectady Civic Playhouse. Evening curtain is 8 pm; matinees, 2:30 pm. Great price of \$12.Call 382-2081 for tickets.

Editor's note: This 79th season of The Playhouse started off with a bang with their October production of "To Kill a Mockingbird," under Joe Fava's direction and his beautiful set design.

### Moon and River Cafe

115 S. Ferry St. 4–11pm 7days Fine Vegetarian Fare & Dessert Paradise-382-1938 Live Music at mostly 8 pm & Free.

- Tues., Dec. 5, 8 pm, String Dusters, swingin blue grass
- Sat. Dec. 9, 8 pm, Tom Ross, ethnomusicologist, exotic instruments & song
- · Wed. Dec. 13, 8 pm, Jazzmin, super jazz band
- Thurs, Dec. 14, 8pm, Jack Harlan, Jack's Backl Our super Canadian Folk Star
- Fri. Dec. 15, 8 pm, Jack Harlan at Arthur's Market
- · Sun. Dec. 17, 11 am, Jack Harlan at Arthur's
- Sunday Brunch performance, omelets now being served!
- Tues, Dec. 19, 7:30 pm Catherine Norr & Johnny D, finger pickin' good guitar

Wed. Dec. 20, 7 pm, Reception for **Jen Travison** - our levely waitress/artist, music by **Hannah** 

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

in the 17th century that had a lasting impact on American life, the Celebration of Christmas and other festivities. Make reservations as space limited. 1:30 pm enjoy bakery items of Dutch holidays discussed: 2 pm program. A donation is appreciated.

<u>- Dec. 13, 7- 9pm, Dora's Home by Candlelight</u> Evening of holiday fun as the Society is transformed by the Hugh Platt Garden Club into a Victorian wonderland! The home of Mrs. Dora Mumford Jackson will be open for guided evening tours. Make an ornament to take home, and enjoy holiday treats!

# Stockade Association Meeting Tidbits - Beverly Elander



Architect Jim Jamieson presented a fascinating (and often humorous) account of the history and current major restoration of the New York State Capitol at the November 9 General Meeting of the Stockade Association held at the Schenectady County Historical Society. According to Jamieson, a total of seven architects toiled for over four decades and spent \$25 million (which would be equal to approximately half a billion dollars today) to complete the structure which is a combination of Italian Renaissance, Romanesque and French Renaissance.

Also noteworthy at the meeting was a discussion of public safety in the Stockade conducted by Neighborhood Watch leaders Carmella Ruscitto, Lt. Brian Barnes (head of Schenectady Police Department's Community Service), and by Stockade patrolman Kevin Green. For safety related problems, Officer Green can be reached at 378 6536, Monday Friday, 4pm midnight.

# **Future Stockade Association Meetings**

**January** - Thurs. 11 **March** - Thurs. 8 **May** - Thurs. 10 Look for speakers and programs for General Meetings announced in that month's *Stockade Spy.* 

# 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 y	ou would like to help with any	of the following us	seful efforts:	
Art Show _ Garden Group	Membership Neighborhood Celebrations	Riverside Park Sidewalk Sale	Walkabout The Stockade Spy	Neighborhood Watch Government Affairs
If you are a non-re • would like to be r • would like to become	is distributed to the neighborh sident and nailed <i>The Stockade Spy,</i> it is ome a "Friend of the Stockade efforts of the Stockade, your co	\$10 per year. " (an associate me	embership)	\$ \$
If you would like to give The Stockade Spy as a gift, it is \$10 per year.			\$	
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# Thank you for joining

# The Stockade Association

(as of November15, 2006) To join, please see page 3

Joan Aigner Elena Alvarez Meredith Anker Paul Basile. Nancy Bell Ruth Bergeron Joan Besserab Theone Bob Bob Briber Sylvie Briber Liane Brown Allan Brown Bob Burger Maureen Burger Brendan Burns F. Richard Churchill Connie Colangelo Marty Colangelo Mary D'Alessandro Carol DelaMarter Diane DeMeo. Bon DeMeo Ellen Desmond Morgan Desmond Vivian d'Estienne Jim Dickson Jim Duggani Darlene Duggan Mariorie Eastham-Austin Lydia Eisi Beverly Flander Amanda Engl Shirley Fahey William Garcia Frank Gilmore Priscilla Gochal William Gocha Lyn Gordon Marie Gutowski. H. Gilbert Harlow Fred Heitkamp 'John Hoff GlennHouston Kathy Johnson Bruce Jordan

Margaret King

Gloria Kishton Deborah Lambeth \*Betty Lane \*Jim Lane Ray LaRoche Anne LaRoche Robert Lemmerman Theresa Lemmerman John Lombard David Lowry Jack McDonald Jeff Mallia Karen Mallia Elio Matarazzo Donald Mealy Betsy Meyer Dennis Mever Date Miller t auralee Moore Jane Oble Steven Oble Elizabeth Orsini. Lisa Orsini. Zoe Oxlev \*Donald Pental Beth Petta Mike Petta Joan Purtell Jack Quinn Sally Quinn Jim Raynolds Peter Rumora Jim Ryani John Samatulski. Robin Sanders Marilyn Sassi Barbara Sauer Gregory Sauer Owen Schlenz Jenniter Schmidt Larry Schmidt Dorothy Sheehan Peter Sheehan Susanna Sherwood Donald Stracher Rochelle Stracher Gertrude Sullivan

# Stockade Snow Parking - Cutting Edge News!

Winter and snow are coming soon. And with enough snow comes snow emergency: odd/even side parking and car towing. Stay up-to-date on snow emergencies by joining the neighborhood email list. Just send a blank email to:

HistoricStockade-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

and reply to the confirmation email you will get. Call Dale at 381-6189 if you have problems.

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AnnThomas
Janice Thompson
Debra Volks
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# Dogs of the Stockade



Lexie (short for "Lexus") and owner Diane DeMeo reside in a beautiful brownstone at 232 Union Street in the Stockade. The address also is the home of Studio 232, where the sign in the entryway announces it is an establishment "Where you create yourself and celebrate," and where Lexie is the Official Greeter.

# - Beverly Elander

When Diane's son offered the puppy to his mother, Diane's initial response was "No, no, NO! I don't want a pit bull - she'll eat my pants!" But nine years later, Lexic is Diane's love, and an affectionate (not to mention beautiful) addition to the charming salon dedicated to Marilyn Monroe and all the glamour girls of Hollywood's glittery past.

An accident when Lexie was 5 months old (she was hit by a car) has left her with an alturing little sashay when she walks. Or perhaps her ever-wagging tail is just permanently in control of the rest of her body. Either way, it is impossible not to bend down for one of those wet kisses which she liberally offers anyone who is willing.

Lexic and owner Diane are planning to be among the first of the Neighborhood Watch members in the Stockade. Civic duty and glamour - Lexie has it all!

# A Light Unto Thy Feet

Snoppy is famous for "It was a dark and stormy night," and so it was, which led to the question: Why are some Stockade streets darker than others? Obviously it's the amount of street lights over head. And why are some street lights brighter than others?

Most of the lights in the Stockade are "cobra headed" referring to the light fixture and contain sodium vapor lamps. They are designed to hold the lamp horizontally to extend its life. The first curiosity to be satisfied was to determine the number of lights.

The basic method was to walk the streets and record the number of lights and the number of steps. The walker has a step of about two teet so it was easy to convert steps to feet. Then the number of feet divided by lamps would result in the average distance between lamps. The next step was to compare streets.

Rank -	Street	Distance between Lights	
best to worst	1		•
1	ChurchSt.		64 feet
	Riverside Park		64 feet
2	North College		74 feet
3	Union St. (N. Col	lege to Wash.)	80 feet
4	Ferry St. (Front to	o Riverside)	90 feet
5	North St.	•	104 feet
6	Ingersoil Ave.		118 feet
7	Front St.		128 feet
8	Ferry St. (Front to	u Union)	132 feet
9	Washington Ave.		148 feet
10	Green St.		197 feet

The older the lamps, the less light they provide although they use the same power. The worst example is the fight on Washington to the North of the Historical Society's driveway. You may need a flashlight to find it.

I he final question is what is to be done? First, call the city and/or National Grid and ask for dim lights to be replaced. Second, a couple of streets should have more lights but that will probably not happen. Third, some of the trees blocking the light should be trimmed but that is not going to happen. Fourth, what can happen is outside porch or entrance lights should be turned on. Light switches can be replaced with

timers to insure it happens each day. Incandescent bulbs can be replaced with fluorescent bulbs that give the same light at the fifth of the cost.

Final line is if we want brighter and safer streets, it is up to us - we who live here.

- Peter Rumora



# Christmas Hash by Ogden Nash

You wish those jingle bells would hush, You slither through the slop and slush, And buses spatter you with mush - Shop counters teem with offerings lush, You lose the sales clerk in the crush, The world has lost its rosy flush - That's what we call the Christmas rush - Yes, everyone complains and hollers, But we wouldn't miss it for a million dollars!

It's time to decorate the tree
And it you're anything like me
When you mix little bulbs and wires
Electricity expires Birds and stars become unspangled
Angels in your hair get tangled
And it you laugh off such mishaps
Ladders under you collapse But still I know if you're like me
You wouldn't miss it - no sirreel

The reindeer hoots are drumming Listen, Santa Claus is coming! See his tummy bulge and billow! That is Mother's favorite pillow. All her cotton, as she teared. Has been purloined to make his beard, Her lipstick sets his cheeks a-glowing. His chest expands with Ho Ho Ho-ing, That last Ho Ho was not too smart - Santa Claus has come apart!

Actorney Glenn J Witecki

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discovered on the back page of the Dec. 1969 Spy

I fear that I shall never more see
A good old-fashioned Christmas tree,
A Christmas tree of natural green
That smells so crisp and cold and clean,
The march of science is relentless,
Now trees are pink and purple and scentless,
But I prefer that ancient hue,
An evergreen Christmas - don't you?

My tingers ache from lugging parcels, I limp on battered metatarsals, My tongue is dry from licking stamps. I'm lost in Christmas lights and amps, I'm in that yearly Yuletide mess, And so are you, I shrewdly guess. It's tough on you and rough on me But gosh, it's worth it, don't you agree?

Scrooge was a Christmas hating miser; It took a ghost to make him wiser. But you and I and Tiny Tim Are miles and miles ahead of him. We do not need to have a ghost Teach us a cheery Christmas toast. And so, no sooner said than done - My friend, God bless us, every one!

# Planning to Do Some Outside Repairs & Painting?

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:

Alpplication deadline December 4

Review meeting December 18



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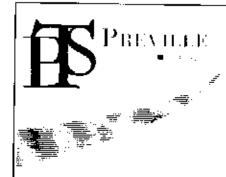


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# The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Kerst Kermis" (Holiday Craft Fair)

at the Van Dyck Restaurant & The Stockade Inn Sunday December 3rd

Brunch: 10 AM -2 PM (Stockade Inn)

Craft Fair 11 AM – 5 PM (Van Dyck)

Regin the Holiday season with a gift for your family and Friends and make a date to share a day of Holiday Magic at the Stockade Association's  $5^{th}$  Annual Kerst Kermis Celebration.

Join us for this Holiday Craft Fair that includes an enchanting display of gifts from the heart.

Shop at the Van Dyck Restaurant, 237 Union Street, Schenectady from 11 AM -5 PM and see an outstanding display of Handmade Creations by area artists. These creations include a wide variety of wreaths, pottery, candles, jewelry designs, handmade ornaments, cards, knit wear, antiques and much more.

In addition to the fine crafts at the Van Dyck we invite you to enjoy an old-fashioned stroll or carriage ride to or from a fabulous brunch at the Stockade Inn. What an amazing way to take in the holiday sights of the Stockade Neighborhood.

The day's events culminate in the lighting of the Stockade Christmas tree and Caroling around the Indian by Arthur's Market.

The cost of shopping (which includes a carriage ride between the two venues) is \$3.00. The price for Brunch and shopping is \$23.50 and includes tax and gratuity.

This magical day is sponsored by The Stockade Association and Marshall & Sterling Insurance and we'd like to thank them for helping us continue this wonderful Holiday Tradition.

To Join the fun please fill out the registration form below and look forward to starting your holiday season in the spirit of fun, community and friends.

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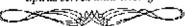


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# Everyday Art

# - Catherine de Salle

# Today

Gifts of December abound in pink sunsets, silvery skies and snow diamonds falling through sunshine. The whisper of life on the eve of winter. Rows of frosty cabbages in fields of wet earth. The beauty of the larches, and the blackened spruce. Savory soups, whiskies in tumblers, and woolen socks.

Oh it's so easy to forget these pleasures when holidays are near. Musak, and fliers in newspapers, spending money we don't have. Stretching ourselves shopping and trimming trees with trinkets. Buying wrapping when what we really need is a good book or a walk by the river. A movie with friends or simply, solitude.

Bless the festivities and the family, and all the joyous laughter of children - but listen to the voice within and stay in touch with what you need loday. Find the quilt that needs stitching or the unfinished painting or whatever it is that makes your heart want to dance. And take the time today. Forget "after the holidays . . ." because today is all we really have.

# - **- -** Tidings ----

### Welcome to:

- Owen Schelenz & Amanda Eng to North College Street.
- Jim Raynolds to Washington Avenue.
- Cindy Singh to North Ferry Street.
- Anne & Ray LaRoche to Front St.

### Condolences to:

 Elizabeth Gemmette of Front St. and her family on the recent passing of her husband, Gerry.

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.

# 1906 Love Letters Discovered

It was discovered, one fall day in 2005, in a dark corner of the cellar at 22 Washington Avenue, secreted away and neatly tucked into two black tin boxes, the love letters between Joe Clements, Jr. and Bertha Platt. Two boxes, because one contained the letters to her, and the other to him, all carefully folded, and many preserved in their original envelopes, all numbered as they were received. Over 300 letters were found that represent their courtship correspondence between 1906 -1907, the year leading up to their marriage on January 12, 1907. Written in a charming and candid style, they capture some interesting details of life in 1906 when Joe was living in Schenectady and Bertha in New Britain, Connecticut.

Joe and Bertha owned #18-24 Washington Avenue from 1909 to 1956 and lived at #22 Washington on the third floor from 1937 until their deaths - Joe in 1945 and Bertha in 1960. They had a door put in, connecting #22 with #18 because Joe's sister, Edith, lived next door. The Colangelos bought the house in 1956 and Bertha rented from them.

Marty Colangelo discovered the letters and then Elinore Schurnacher, residing at #22, bitten by curiosity, researched the tamily and was unable to find any living descendants. Elinore lovingly typed all 300 letters! Here, and in future issues of *The Spy*, are some interesting excerpts from them.

(Howard is Bertha's brother).

7:00 PM

Dearheart -

. . . And, I am so eager to hear what the Gen. Elec. man said - and what you talked about when you went to see him. It's such fun - to care so much about interesting things, isn't it? I mean, it's such fun to have your work make so much difference to us.

As you will find out when I tell you, Howard sent for tickets for us, but all they had were box seats. As it isn't at Parsons, I don't know whether we can see or not. They were expensive - and dear, I don't think we ought to go to the theatre so much. I never have before. Of course, this is a celebration over the new contract, and then too, the "Music Master"—is one of the good things you want me to share, just as I'd want you to see Forbes Robertson in "Hamlet" or Bernhardt in "L'Aiglon" because they have been two of the "best things" in their line that my experience has given me. They are much more than an evening's entertainment, and the price one has to pay for them is <u>not</u> dear considered that way - But, we won't get into the habit of thinking we must go.

.... All this won't see you until Monday - so good luck to you all this week and God bloss you - my own Dearheart. -

EKYUXNS

В.

# Birds of the Stockade

The tail of a bird comes in various shapes and color patterns. For example, it is round in the American Crow, graduated in the Mourning Dove, slightly forked in the American Goldfinch or square in the Northern Cardinal and Coppers Hawk. It could have a yellow band at the tip as in the Cedar Waxwing, or with white outer tail feathers as in the Dark-eyed Junco and Northern Mockingbird.

James L. Taft AKA Captain Fagle Eyes

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# Thank you, Spy Patroons

The following **31** businesses have paid for advertising for the entire year. We thank them for their commitment to *The Spy* and the community. Please support them by your patronage.

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## Didn't Get a Spy?

You can usually pick up a copy of the *Stockade Spy* at: Arthur's Market 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

If you consistently do not get a <u>Spy</u>, please call our delivery guy,

Josh Mlodzianowski at 382-7654. Mr. James Family Hair Care Center

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Stockade Inni Studio 232

Susan Cerone, broker/developer Trudi Thun, Veronica Lynch

Witecki Law Offices

YWCA of Schenectady

# Please Be A Good Neighbor:

- For safety, keep your <u>front</u> and <u>back</u> 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 ASAP
- Help frail neighbors clean their front yards
- Pick up dog poops (in plastic bags)
- Report wrongdoings to the police ASAP

# Important Numbers

Stockade Safety
 Kevin Green -- 378-6536

 4pm -- midnight Mon. -- Fri.

- Emergency - 911

Sch'dy Police – 382-5200

Trash Collection,

Waste Collection Schedule & Recycling - 382-5144

Articles that appear in The Stockade

Articles that appear in *The Stockade Spy* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Stockade Association Board of Directors.

# December Waste Collection Dates

Monday, Dec. 4 Monday, Dec. 18 Monday, Dec. 11 Tuesday, Dec. 26

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

# The Stockade Spy

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