

The WENA News

Published by the Westcott East Neighborhood Association

PO Box 6817, Syracuse, New York 13217

westcottneighborhood@hotmail.com

We are creating the New Urban Village and making it work for diversity and justice.

WENA Annual Meeting Focuses on Beautifying our Urban Landscape

WENA's annual meeting on Monday, February 13, at 7 pm at the Westcott Dayhabilitation Center, 522 Westcott Street, will provide us with important information on how we can beautify our urban landscape. Two presentations will follow the business portion of the meeting, which will include the election of WENA board members. Terry Ettinger, NYS Nursery and Landscape Association Certified Nursery Profession and Concord Place resident, will speak on, "Environmentally and Seasonally Sensitive Landscaping." Terry's brief talk will include functional versus ornamental lawns, right-sized plants for urban landscapes, creating privacy without evergreens, and plants for year-round interest. Terry will also explain why we should cease and desist from raking leaves to the curb—they are not garbage! CommuniTree Steward Fran Lawlor will also talk about this Cornell Cooperative Extension program that trains volunteers to do tree planting and light pruning work on young trees. Both speakers will welcome questions from the audience following their talks.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available. The Westcott Dayhab is an accessible community space. Parking is available in the Dayhab lot off South Beech Street and the entrance is through the door under the canopy.

Two New Businesses in the Neighborhood

WENA would like to welcome two new businesses to the neighborhood.

Recess Skateboard Shoppe & Café, 110 Harvard Place, offers skateboards and gourmet coffee and espresso. Owned by Sean Chilson, the café will also offer live acoustic music and open mic nights. It will be open from 8am to 11pm weekdays, and later on weekends.

Tales and Toys is a new retail establishment located on Dell Street next to Westcott Alterations. The store features new and used toys and books for children of all ages. Proprietor Jean Koveos is pleased to be part of the eclectic Westcott business district and looks forward to meeting and greeting neighborhood residents.

Empowerment Zone in the Westcott Business District

The City of Syracuse was given Empowerment Zone designation in 2001 and the program became operational in the city in 2002, nine years after this federal program was created to promote job growth and generate community revitalization in 1993. Businesses located within or near the Empowerment Zone boundaries may qualify for zone benefits, such as tax credits for new or existing employees. Businesses (and vacant properties) in the Westcott Business District are located within or near the City of Syracuse's Empowerment Zone boundaries and may qualify for benefits.

Kurt Roulston, an Economic Development Specialist with the City of Syracuse, is the City's Empowerment Zone Coordinator. Kurt has begun meeting with the Westcott Business District proprietors to discuss the program, as well as to generate interest in starting a business association.

For more information about the Empowerment Zone program in Syracuse, you can contact Kurt at 315-448-8062 or kroulston@edsyracuse.com.

WENA Meetings

Join us the second Monday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Petit Branch Library. (Note: July and August meetings are held on Thursday.)



2006 Westcott Street Cultural Fair

Looking for a way to get involved? Consider helping plan the 2006 Westcott Street Cultural Fair. The 15th annual Westcott Fair is scheduled for Sunday, September 17 from noon to 7 pm. Planning for the 2006 fair will begin shortly, and we hope that you will consider joining this planning effort. All you need is a sense of community, ideas for how to make this 15th anniversary fair a momentous occasion, and the time and energy to put these ideas into action. The planning committee will meet monthly from March through August to plan the fair in the evening at a convenience neighborhood location, while individual sub-committees will work on specific areas, such as the Kids Korner, Teen Scene, streetscape, performing arts, and more under the leadership of one of the veteran planning committee members. If you are not into meetings, but you are into helping with some aspect of the fair, that's okay too. For more information about the Westcott Fair and how to volunteer, visit us on the web at <http://www.westcottfair.org> or call us at **703-6848**.

UNSAAC 2006-2007 Grants

The University Neighborhood Service Area Advisory Committee (UNSAAC), composed of representatives from WENA, SEUNA, UNPA, Thornden Park Association, Syracuse University, and our two Syracuse Common Councilors, performed its yearly grant request review and submitted its recommendations to the City in January. The group was created about 14 years ago to address some of the impact of having the footprint of Syracuse University in the eastern neighborhoods and consequently becoming an area of transient students residing amongst the homeowners and commercial businesses. For the fiscal year 2006-2007, a total of \$338, 000 in grant money was available. The following organizations were recommended to receive grants:

South East University Neighborhood Association - Neighborhood Patrol	\$57,000
Westcott Community Development Corporation – Walking Patrol	\$26,000
Preservation Association of Central New York	\$6,000
University Neighborhood Preservation Association	\$162,000
Westcott Community Center	\$78,000
Westcott Street Cultural Fair	\$4,238
Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs	\$4,000
South East University Neighborhood Association - Berkeley Park	\$262
Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA)	\$500



Election of Board Members

WENA Board elections will be held at our annual meeting, February 13.

Board members nominated for re-election to a two-year term (in alphabetical order):

Jane Begley
Ollie Clubb
Walley Francis
Jerry Grant
Alice Honig
Gary Rettig
Joanne Waghorne
Marilyn Zaleon

New nominee:

Jon Garland

Nominations are also requested from the “floor” at the meeting.

Why Join WENA?

WENA has offered an organizational structure for neighborhood preservation and improvement for more than 20 years. Beautification of our urban landscape has been one of our proudest accomplishments over the years. Our flower planting and maintenance, commissioning of mural art, and historic house tours have all served these goals. More recently, we have sponsored social events featuring local performing artists.

WENA has also voiced neighborhood concerns about public safety and housing code compliance. WENA works cooperatively with other neighborhood organizations and representatives of Syracuse University, known as the Westcott Roundtable, to advocate for such reforms as a sidewalk snow removal plan, creation of bike lanes, and improved zoning ordinances. WENA also provides modest financial support to the annual Westcott Street Cultural Fair, the Petit Branch Summer reading program, and other neighborhood good works.

Although we receive annual grants from the UNSAAC fund to purchase annual plantings for the business district, our most vital resources are your membership dues and volunteer time. Please consider an investment in your neighborhood by joining or renewing your membership for one or more years. **Check your mailing label to see if your membership has expired.** Simply send a check to accompany the form provided in this newsletter TODAY.





P.O. Box 6817, Syracuse, N.Y. 13217
A non-profit community organization

WENA Membership Form

(Please return to WENA, PO Box 6817, Syracuse, NY 13217)

Yes, I want to join (or renew) with the nearly 200 residents who are members of the Westcott East Neighborhood Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

\$10 _____ **annual basic membership**

\$15 _____ **Supporters' level**

\$25 _____ **Sponsors' level**

I am interested in helping with the following activities:

___ Gardening ___ Historic House Tour ___ Performing Arts Events ___ Communications

___ Other (please specify) _____

Westcott East Neighborhood Association

PO Box 6817

Syracuse, NY 13217

