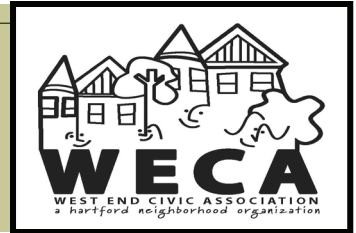


# West End News



## Farmington Avenue Streetscape Design Moving Forward

The City of Hartford's consultant team presented the preliminary design for Phase I of a project to upgrade Farmington Avenue between Marshall and Kenyon Streets at a community meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Mark Twain Museum Auditorium.

Plans call for a re-configuration of the avenue's travel lanes, consolidation of bus stops with bus pull outs and new shelters, expanded spaces for bicycles though not a marked bike lane, wider sidewalks, medians, period pedestrian lighting and new street lamps, street furniture and plantings.

Read about the community meeting and view drawings of the proposed streetscape design on the Farmington Avenue Alliance website,

## Letter from the President of the West End Civic Association

Greetings and welcome to this summer edition of the West End Civic Association newsletter. We hope you find it helpful, and will keep it for reference in the future.

At the annual meeting of WECA in June, I reviewed some of our accomplishments over the past 12 months. I thought I would outline them here.

Perhaps most importantly, WECA worked with residents in all parts of the West End, from south to north, east to west. WECA, after all, is here to serve you. We want the civic association to be an inclusive organization that supports all of us through organizing and advocacy.

In the southeast sector – south of Farmington, from Sisson Avenue to South Whitney Street – we ran a highly successful Job Readiness Open House in May. David Samuels, our vice president, and Brenda McCumber, our administrative assistant, organized the open house and deserve praise and thanks for its success. Also, thank you, Darrell Garner, for hosting it at the West End Community Center. We plan to follow the open house with continued programs for people seeking work or other assistance, working with A Better Way Foundation.

In the north sector – from Elizabeth Street north to Bloomfield Avenue – WECA worked with residents of the north block of Prospect Avenue on traffic issues. They met with Mayor Eddie Perez and won an agreement to install a new stop sign and striping along the sides of the roadway to slow traffic. Andy Stern,

north sector representative, helped in this work. Thanks, Andy.

In the southwest sector – south of Farmington, west of South Whitney Street to Prospect Avenue – there is much to notice. If you drive down Beacon, Oxford or Tremont, you will cross two speed tables on each of these streets. The streets' residents report that these bumps work: They have slowed traffic. And they look good, too. The southwest sector is a Rising Star neighborhood so it has received city help to plant new trees, install plaques on historic homes, make home improvements and start on sidewalk repairs. Residents of the sector have beautified plantings on the major thoroughfares.

I hope you enjoyed the first annual West End Concert on the Green, held on the Hartford Seminary lawn, earlier this month. Thanks go to Carol Lamson and residents of the first block of Kenyon Street, in the central east sector, who organized the concert.

We worked on other issues as well: Public Safety – the Public Safety Committee met monthly, and the police have reported consistently that crime is stable, and low, in the West End.

Education – WECA is supporting the effort of Noah Webster School to recruit neighborhood children to attend the school, which is a magnet school.

Housing – We have a new inspector, Darryl Drawhorn, in our neighborhood and we continue to work with folks with housing issues.

Property Taxes – Tim Sullivan, a resident of the West End, led an effort to limit the impact of revaluation on both homeowners and tenants. Thanks to Tim, we will not see the dramatic, and ruinous, raise in property taxes once revaluation kicks in next year.

Farmington Avenue – The Farmington Avenue Alliance has continued to work with the city on the redesign plans for the avenue. You can expect to see construc-

tion start in late 2007 or 2008. Website – WECA now has a website. Check us out at [www.westend.org](http://www.westend.org).

Housing Discrimination Task Force – The WECA Board authorized formation of this new task force to ensure equal treatment of everyone when it comes to renting a place to live.

Basketball Tournament – WECA, the West End Community Center and a Better Way Foundation are working to sponsor a basketball tournament for the kids in the neighborhood, with the idea that one day we may sponsor a league. Target date for the tournament is early November.

HOPE – WECA continues to have representation on Hartford Organizing for Power and Equality, the new community groups that serves the West End, Asylum Hill and Parkville.

Look around the West End and you will see signs of progress – the construction project at Noah Webster School is nearing completion, more than 80 new trees grace the Rising Star neighborhood south of Farmington Avenue, new restaurants are being developed along Farmington Avenue, the neighborhood remains a desired destination for both homeowners and tenants. WECA will continue to work with neighborhood and other city groups to keep moving the neighborhood forward. We hope you will join us. With your help we can make our neighborhood even better.

Please get involved – come to our general meetings – October 10, December 12, February 13, April 10 and June 12 – and share in the discussion. Or pick one of the committees listed in this newsletter and get involved in its work.

Please call or write me if you have anything you want to talk about. I can be reached at 509-9519 (w), 233-6993 (h) or email to [dbarrett@hartsem.edu](mailto:dbarrett@hartsem.edu).

**David Barrett**  
President

## West End News Editorial Board Notice

A year ago, the West End Civic Association board decided to expand the newsletter to include a space for Other Opinions. It also decided to have an editorial board that oversees the newsletter. In the fall, the board plans to appoint a new editorial board for 2006-2007. Anyone who is interested in serving on the board should contact Dawn Fuller-Ball, newsletter editor, at [wecanews@yahoo.com](mailto:wecanews@yahoo.com) or call her at 233-4884.

## WECA Committees

**Finance Committee: Chair: David Klein [dmk3975@aol.com](mailto:dmk3975@aol.com) 232-2050.** Works with WECA treasurer to prepare annual budget (fall), Periodically reviews financial results, Meets once or twice a year at the convenience of the members.

**Public Safety: Co Chairs: Jory Johnson 232-1455, 203-687-3289 [nancyboone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nancyboone@sbcglobal.net) or David Jorgensen 670-5454 [jorgie54@comcast.net](mailto:jorgie54@comcast.net).** Trash Issues: bulky waste pickup, trash cans blocking sidewalks, excessive trash debris etc. We will plan for our next September 14 public safety committee meeting when we will invite city officials to discuss these issues. Welcome to our new co-chair David Jorgensen. He has added much energy and enthusiasm to our work. Please join us for our next meeting Thursday, September 14, 7pm at the West End Community Center.

**Education: Chair: Sylvia Reid 233-7913.** The Education Section of WECA will have it's first meeting for the Fall on Tuesday, September 5th at 6pm at 28 Gray Street, Hartford. We will be making decisions regarding which persons will be the special liaisons for each of the local schools and the volunteer/mentoring schedule for HPHS and Noah Webster School. We will be joining up with HPHS and Noah Webster's PTA and the general school board so that we will stay abreast of the changes the Strong Mayor has planned for our children. The Noah Webster Basketball Team is in need of uniforms. If you have the ability, please consider sponsonr the team by helping with uniforms. The cheerleaders can use assistance obtaining uniforms for the season as well.

**Farmer's Market- Market Master: Rob Miller 997-5776**

The grand opening of the West End Farmers' Market was a huge success. 240 servings of strawberry shortcake were served and people bought loads of fresh produce from 4 Connecticut local farms. They also listened to live jazz from Ben Golder-Novic Jazz Trio. The West End Farmer's Market is open every Tuesday and Friday from 4-7pm at the corner of Farmington and South Whitney. All produce is grown locally by the farmers who sell it.

**Housing- Co Chairs: Sonia Ayala Sonia Ayala, [Soniaa0924@aol.com](mailto:Soniaa0924@aol.com), 233-2980, Ed Karban, [ekarb@aol.com](mailto:ekarb@aol.com), 930-0902**

**Membership Chair: Dore Thomas, [dtmisha@hotmail.com](mailto:dtmisha@hotmail.com), 231-8259**

## HOPE (Hartford Organizing for Power and Equality)

**Hartford Renters: Do you feel TRAPPED? Would you like to move, but CAN'T AFFORD it? Do you feel THREATENED by rent increases? Are you being BULLYED by your landlord?**

All Hartford renters are welcome at the [second organizing meeting of the Tenants Rights Group](#) sponsored by [h.o.p.e.](#) (Hartford Organizing for Power and Equality) We unite renters to change the system. You should come if: you are a renter, you want Section 8; you have bad credit; you have a new landlord; you have a criminal record; you cannot afford your rent; you have a history of evictions; you were denied subsidized housing; you have ever lost your security deposit; you have Section 8, and still live in a crappy apartment. [Pizza & soft drinks](#) will be provided. Wednesday, AUG 30, 6:30pm, at [Soromundi Commons](#), 135 Broad Street ([eight-story tower attached to the YWCA](#))

**Call - 523-4870 with questions or for a ride**

**Single Mothers on the Move with H.O.P.E.**

Are you a single Mom? If you have kids & you are not with the father You are a single mother. Held two public meeting in the West

helped get a meeting with the Department heads and supervisors in Child Support Enforcement. They agreed to consider our suggested changes and to make recommendations to the Commissioner for Social Services for legislative changes. We also worked with Vecinos Unidos to hold a meeting with the Chair of the Child Poverty Council and now to try to meet with the Governor.

[Hartford Organizing for Power & Equality - Youth and Parents Group](#) If you did not see the article in the [Courant](#) or the [Advocate](#), Jose Velez is a student from Quirk Middle School organizing with other students and parents to challenge the system of complaints against teachers. There is no policy or formal process that is understandable to the students or parents. There is not a clear code of conduct with definite consequences like the students have. We also are considering the idea of a Review Board with students, staff and parents and maybe community representatives. If you are interested in getting involved call 523-4870.

## Southwest Sector Completes Tree-Planting Program

On June 24, the Southwest Sector finally completed its rain-delayed tree-planting program. About 20 volunteers turned out to plant 30 trees. Since October, 2004, sector volunteers have planted 81 trees along the various streets in the Southwest Sector over four separate planting days.

The plantings are part of a collaboration between the Knox Parks Foundation, whose Urban Tree Program helps neighborhoods fill the gaps along the sidewalk line where trees once stood, and the Neighborhoods of Hartford, Inc. (NHI), which manages the city's Rising Star program. The Southwest Sector is a designated "Rising Star Neighborhood," and NHI funded the sector's share of the cost.

Under the program, trees have been planted on every street in the sector. A total of 56 different properties received at least one tree. Eighteen trees were planted on Prospect Avenue, and between 9 and 13 trees each were planted on Oxford Street, Tremont Street, Beacon Street, Rodney Street, and West Boulevard. Property owners, who picked trees from among species available to the Knox Parks Foundation, selected 30 maples, 16 cherries, 13 elms, 11 pears, and 11 other trees.

Tree-planting is, in a sense, a legacy to the neighborhood. Its full impact will not be felt for years, when the trees begin to reach full size.

Charmaine Craig and Jack Hale provided key support from the Knox Parks Foundation. Maurice Robertson was the neighborhood organizer from NHI. Anyone interested in exploring tree-planting in other parts of the West End should contact the Knox Parks Foundation at 951-7694

## Greater Hartford Marathon and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Team in Training

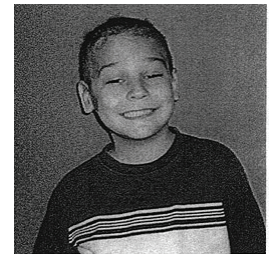
I'm training for a marathon and welcome your support!

While representing WECA for several years on the Hartford Marathon planning committee, I thought that it could be fun to some day run through my neighborhood as a participant. Then when I found out that this fall the Marathon will be on my birthday—Saturday, October 14th—it seemed like a perfect time to accomplish this goal that has been in the back of my mind.

So I plan to run/walk the 26.2 miles in Greater Hartford. Over the next few months, I will continue to train with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training (TNT), a comprehensive endurance program that trains thousands of runners, walkers, cyclists, and triathletes each year.

The goal of TNT is to raise funds to support the Society's mission, while at the same time, promoting fitness and healthy life styles. Since its inception, TNT has raised more than \$660 million for research, specifically, targeting blood cancers. In the past 45 years, research funded by the Society through people like you and me has helped improve the survival rate of childhood cancers from 4% in 1960 to 80% today.

Those wishing to support my marathon fundraising efforts may do so by writing a check to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and mailing it to my home address—25 North Beacon Street—or by credit card donation at this website: [www.active.com/donate/tntct/tntctjbauer](http://www.active.com/donate/tntct/tntctjbauer) Thank you in advance for your generosity. JoAnne Bauer



honored teammate  
Noalan Frisbie,  
diagnosed at age 5.

### Navigating New Ways Summer Project

Purpose: To unite Hartford youths and adults toward the ultimate goal of building SOCIAL POWER!

#### Events (free of charge)

Deep Sea Fishing Trips—Monday August 28  
Back to School Event - Thursday, August 31  
Opportunity Fair - Wednesday, September 13

For more information contact:

David at 570-0782 [samuelsloflo@aol.com](mailto:samuelsloflo@aol.com) Or  
Lorenzo at 270-9586 [lorenzo.jones@abwf-ct.org](mailto:lorenzo.jones@abwf-ct.org)

check us out on the web: [www.abwf-ct.org](http://www.abwf-ct.org)

### The Hartford Metropolitan Area Youth Choir is still rehearsing, and performing.

Feel free to join us. This project is for youth ages 10 and up. It's fun.

The choir stands against abuse and violence in every form, and we together with one voice make a stand for a bright future.

Call Mrs. Reid at 860-233-7913 for rehearsal and performance info.

### The Parkville Classics

The Parkville Classics starts its ninth season of free concerts on October 14, 2006 with the Adaskin Trio

Grace Episcopal Church, 55 New Park Ave, Hartford-7:30 PM

A reception follows to greet the musicians.

For further info.-Ellen Morse  
649-6192

## HELP NEEDED FOR PARK RIVER CLEAN-UP ON September 30<sup>th</sup>

Hartford, CT – A Park River clean-up is being organized for Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 2:30pm. This Park River clean-up will be held in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmington River Clean-up, which is organized by the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut River Watershed Source to Sea Cleanup, which is organized by the Connecticut River Watershed Council.

A river clean-up is a great community event designed to involve people and groups of all ages in exploring waterway environments. We encourage special groups, such as Girl/Boy Scout troops or neighborhood block associations to organize teams to concentrate on taking a walk along neighborhood waterways throughout the Park River

watershed, and removing litter in the process. Garbage bags will be provided to all participants, and pick-up locations arranged.

This event is being coordinated with assistance from the Farmington River Watershed Association, ([www.frwa.org](http://www.frwa.org)) a non-profit organization working to conserve and protect water quality and quantity, habitat and recreational access within the Farmington River watershed. The Connecticut River Watershed Council is also providing assistance, ([www.ctriver.org/cleanup](http://www.ctriver.org/cleanup)). In the past, over 200 volunteers have participated in collecting nearly 2.5 tons of trash from along the Farmington River.

For more information on how you can help with a Park River Clean-up, please call Mary Rickel Pelletier at (860)-232-5701.

After Sept 1<sup>st</sup> the web site:

[www.parkriver.org](http://www.parkriver.org) will be updated with further details about the clean-up.

*The Farmington River Watershed Association, founded in 1953, is a private, non-profit, conservation organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the Farmington River and its 609 square mile watershed. Tap water provided by the MDC throughout the Park River watershed is taken from the Farmington River watershed. The 77 square miles of Park River watershed includes parts of West Hartford, Bloomfield, Newington, Plainville, Farmington, and Hartford. Maps of the Park River watershed are available online at [www.parkriver.org](http://www.parkriver.org).*

## An Open Letter to West Enders:

Immanuel Congregational Church is proud to sponsor this issue of WECA's neighborhood newsletter. We are a historic neighborhood church, having been on the corner of Farmington and Woodland Street since 1899. Our members come from many neighborhoods of Hartford and many area towns, but share these things in common:

- \*Concern for peace and social justice, both at home and abroad;
- \*Caring for the children of Hartford, expressed particularly by our ongoing work with Noah Webster School and Hartford Public High School;
- \*Respect for the humanity of all people and the different paths of their faith journeys;
- \*A love of the power of the arts in worship.

We are young and old, straight and gay, white, black, latino, single, married, poor, rich and in-between -- in other words, we look a lot like the West End. Please feel free to visit any Sunday at 10 a.m. (9:30 in August). Our festive service on Sept. 17 includes luncheon for all. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you will find a welcome here.

Immanuel Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
Farmington at Woodland      Parking off Woodland      Church School 10 am  
527 8121      The Rev. Ed Horstmann, Senior Pastor      [www.iccucc.org](http://www.iccucc.org)

**Southwest – Stephen Cohen 232-1396, Jeff Jahnke 216-6609,  
alt Nina Sakun 231-9486**

**South East – Darrell Garner 989-3323, Corinne Robinson 461-0062,  
Shariq Iqbal 233-5310, Katrina Gilbert 997-0036**

**Central West - Bob Murray 523-1552, alt Steven Colangelo 523-0597**

**Central East – Tonia Loconte 586-8270 Eleanor Blake 523-0328**

**North – Andrew Stern 523-5655 (h), 523-5224 (w)**

