



West End News

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings

One universal concern of all of us is traffic in the West End. Many of you see cars speeding down your streets and wonder about ways to slow the cars down. Or we see people barely slowing down at stop signs. Or we notice parked cars that seem to have taken up residence on our streets. And these are just some of the issues.

We have decided, therefore, to devote the December general meeting, which takes place on December 12, to traffic.

Kevin Burnham, the city's traffic engineer in the Department of Public Works, will join us to talk about traffic calming. Here is your chance to ask him whether we can have speed tables on some of our streets like those installed on Beacon, Oxford and Tremont.

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West End Civic Association General Meeting

December 12, 2006 - 7 p.m.

United Methodist Church

Agenda

- Welcome
- **Traffic in the West End:** What can do we about it?
 - Traffic calming measures, talk with Kevin Burnham, city Department of Public Works
 - Traffic enforcement: Speeding and other issues, talk with Community Services Officer John Miller and the Hartford Police Department Traffic Unit
- Hartford's new 311 system for service complaints to the city
 - Presentation by Susan McMullen, Director of Constituent Services for Mayor Eddie Perez
- Updates:
 - Education
 - Housing
 - Public Safety
- Improvements for the West End Farmer's Market
- Other business



Dine Around the West End on January 27th

Enjoy signature hospitality at "Dine Around the West End," the third annual progressive dinner to benefit WECA on Saturday evening, January 27, 2007. The evening starts at 6 p.m. at the home of Paddi LeShane & Patrick Sullivan at 1090 Prospect Avenue. Approximately 150 guests will enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres and receive their dinner assignments. From there they depart for dinner at one of eighteen West End homes. Beginning at 9:30 pm, dessert and coffee will be offered to guests at the home of Sally and Kenneth Lerman at 100 Scarborough Street.

Dine Around the West End is a great way to overcome the mid winter blahs. The night is full of surprises – where you dine, the menu served, and your dinner companions!

"Along with being a fun fundraiser, this is a great way for neighbors to get acquainted and reunited with new and longtime residents in their own neighborhoods," states David Barrett, President of WECA. "In previous years we had scores of people tell us they've met people for the first time but who have lived in the West End for years just a few blocks away."

"In addition to our gracious hosts, we're fortunate to have so many generous sponsors," says Jan Klein, co-chair for the event. Gold Charger sponsors include DeVars-Phillips Florists, and Mollie & Al Abend, Prudential CT Realty. Silver Tray sponsors include FedexKinko's Print & Copy Center, Murati's Home Improvement, Japanalia, Pond House Café, The Village for Children and Families, and West Side Wines & Spirits.

"We cannot say enough how important it is for people to make their reservation by sending reply and payment as soon as possible," adds John Avignone, co-chairing the event with Jan Klein. "This event has sold out the past two years and the waiting list usually starts three weeks before the event."

Admission is \$75 per person if purchased by January 13th and \$85 afterwards. Invitations will be mailed to WECA members and West End neighbors by December 15th. If you have not received yours by then or need more information, call co-chairs Jan Klein at 232-2050 or John Avignone at 233-7911.

HARTFORD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

REVIVE ANCIENT EMBER DAY PRACTICES IN THE WEST END

DECEMBER 13, 15, & 16

The Reverend Barbara Jamestone, PhD., newly settled minister at the Unitarian Society of Hartford (USH), has revived Ember Day practice with a spiritually inclusive focus as a time of "solitude, silence and simplicity" held in September, December, March and June. The Celts and Romans celebrated the change of the season with thanksgiving and fasting in ancient times. During the early years of Christianity the Roman Catholics, and later the Anglicans, sanctified these events within the Christian liturgical calendar as days for fasting and reflection on one's spiritual vocation.

Rev. Jamestone indicates these December Ember Days at USH will focus on practicing the establishment of **Peace on Earth**. "We will reflect on the practice of peace, as it is experienced in *lectio divina*, the prayerful reading of texts. We will use the words of Thich N'hat Hahn and Jesus, men known for bringing peace to the hearts of many. We will practice establishing peace of mind, heart, and body during the busy holiday season. "

The public is welcome to all or any of the Embers Day services. There is **no cost** for these sessions, but registration is requested at the USH office, 233-9897. Registrants are encouraged to bring a journal and a blanket or cushion if desired for the time of 'sitting.' Ember Days services are in the Chapel at USH on **December 13 from 12 to 2 PM and December 15 and 16 from 6 to 8 PM**. The Unitarian Meeting-house is located at 50 Bloomfield Ave., near the corner of Albany Ave. and Bloomfield Ave.

WECA's Annual Membership Drive Is Under Way



Hello Everybody!

WECA's annual membership drive is underway. This membership drive is one of the major fundraisers for the West End Civic Association.

We are asking for your help to pay for our administrative assistant, mailings, block parties, printing of the newsletter and other neighborhood expenses.

Please consider becoming a member of WECA - your neighborhood organization. WECA works to support the activities of all resi-

dents of the West End. It is important that everybody support our neighborhood to make it a great place to live, work and play!

If you have an issue that you would like to be addressed, let us know. The WECA board meets the first Tuesday of every month or come to general meetings which are held the second Tuesdays in the months of October, December, February, April, and June, at the Methodist Church on Farmington Avenue.

If you did not receive a letter from us please fill out the form on page 4 and return it to us.

Send it to WECA, c/o

David Barrett,

257 Oxford Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

Remember, there are several ways to become a member:

1. Contribute monetarily
 2. Volunteer
 3. Simply fill out the enrollment form and mail it back
- Questions? Comments?

Call me Dore Thomas, WECA Membership Chair, at 231-8259

Hartford Organizing for Power & Equality

HOPE held our Annual Assembly and celebrated the election of a new Board of Directors. Six groups officially joined H.O.P.E. including the West End Civic Association. Welcome to Vimarie Quinones, the West End Co-Chair and Wanda Flores, the WECA Representative. Thank you to the over 100 people who attended.

Single Mothers on the Move will be holding a meeting with Kevin Loveland from the State Department of Social Services on Tuesday, December 12. He is responsible for the case managers in offices statewide and policies regarding TANF.

Stand Up for Your Rights and the Tenants Rights Group including Soromundi Residents Council met with State Representative Green regarding the need for more State RAP (state section 8) in Hartford and the need for applicants to get a chance to explain a criminal record or credit mark when applying for an apartment.

For more information or to get involved, please call H.O.P.E. at 523-4870

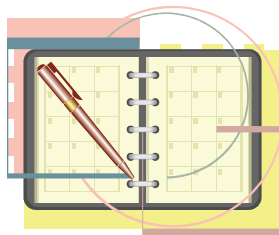
West End Farmers' Market

The West End Farmers' Market is planning to add improvements to its space at the United Methodist Church. The proposed changes are to build a patio along side the church level with the sidewalk. This will give farmers a level place to set up that is durable enough to handle the foot traffic the market brings in. A low wall will hold back the bank and preserve the trees. Colors for the patio and wall will complement the church.

A grant has been applied for from the CT Dept of Agriculture to pay for part of the project. We will be looking for donations and fundraisers to cover the rest of the cost. If you would like to get involved please call Rob Miller at 997-5776

WECA Calendar December 2006/January 2007

Dec. 5, Jan 2 Board meeting, 7 pm, WECC
 Dec 12 General Meeting, 7 pm, United Methodist Church, 571 Farmington Ave.



Committee Meetings

Dec 7, Jan 4 Public Safety - Meets first Thursday of month, 7 pm, WECC
 Chairs: Jory Johnson, nancyboone@sbcglobal.net, 232-1455
 Dave Jorgenson, jorgie54@comcast.net, 670-5454

Dec 4, Jan 8 Education - Meets first Monday of the month, 6 pm, WECC
 Chair: Sylvia Reid, reidcandi@earthlink.net, 233-0436

Jan 15 Housing - Meets third Monday of month, 6 pm, WECC
 Chairs: Sonia Ayala, soniaa0924@aol.com, 233-2980
 Ed Karban, ekarb@aol.com, 525-7446

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Young People ages 10 – 26
 Sing, Dance, Rap,
 Play an instrument?!!
You are welcome to become a member of the Hartford Metropolitan Area Youth Choir

Rehearsals - Saturdays 12:noon Sharp

Call for locations
 For transportation and further info Call Sylvia Reid 860-233-7913



The Parkville Classicals will present a Christmas program with Novi Cantori on Dec. 16th at 7:30 PM at Grace Episcopal Church 55 New Park Ave. Hartford. Free with reception to greet the musicians. Further Information: Ellen Morse 860-649-6192



Public Safety Committee

In our meeting on Thursday, November 2, 2006, we had only one person in attendance, even though there has been quite a bit of concern on behalf of some of our residents regarding certain quality of life issues.

In spite of the low turnout, we are pleased to inform our residents of the solid work that our police department has been putting in in the West End. In the month of October, they made 8 arrests in response to the prostitution/solicitation situation which was discussed at October's meeting. Another arrest was made in a string of robberies which will help curb that activity as well. Our speeding problem has been addressed with increased traffic stops and the radar trailer. Otherwise, the West End has been relatively quiet.

In order to continue our positive and constructive relationship with HPD, we encourage any and all concerned residents to attend our future meetings held on the first Thursday of every month. We have seen real improvement in the areas discussed at our previous meetings and we would like to continue in this positive direction.

Comments, questions, concerns? Contact Jory Johnson at nancyboone@sbcglobal.net or Dave Jorgensen at jorgie54@comcast.net. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on December 7, 2006!

FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONTINUED

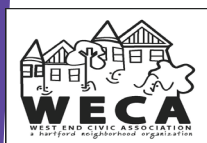
For 2007, what is the city planning in our neighborhood in terms of traffic calming measures?

Also joining us will be John Miller, our community services officer, and folks from the Police Department's traffic division. Let's ask them how to slow down the speeding cars and what their enforcement options are. Did you know that cars are not supposed to be parked on sidewalks, as we see sometimes on Farmington Avenue? Did you know that we have a three-hour limit for on-street parking?

Here's your chance to share your stories and suggest solutions; join us on December 12.

In another note, included in this newsletter is a membership form for the West End Civic Association. Please join WECA by filling out the form and sending it to us. Any contribution you can make would be appreciated. Thank you.

David Barrett
 President
 860/509-9519 (or) d Barrett@hartsem.edu



WECA: West End Civic Association

Enrollment Form

Please complete form to become a Member, please print clearly.

Name(s) _____

Home Address _____ Apt # _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email Address _____

Two-name household? Y N If yes, other name _____

WECA makes your neighborhood better, but we need your help.

This year WECA needs to raise **\$30,000** to sustain the organization. Some examples of costs:

Office support: **\$1000** per month; WECA News, our bi-monthly newsletter, **\$400** per issue; Block Parties: **\$250**, food and entertainment; Block Meetings: **\$50**, flyers and refreshments.

Contributions are strongly encouraged since it takes \$30,000 to sustain the organization. WECA is a 501(c) (3) organization and contributions are tax deductible. Please check contribution level.

_____ \$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ Volunteer
_____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____ Other

We all have resources. Some of us have time, some of us have money. Do what you can. Please give generously.

_____ I want to become more involved in WECA and want information about these Committees:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ Public Safety | _____ Housing | _____ Architectural Resources |
| _____ Education | _____ Zoning | _____ Communications |
| _____ Fundraising | _____ Seniors | _____ Farmington Avenue |
| _____ Social Activities | _____ Traffic Calming | _____ Youth & Recreation |
| _____ Breakfast Program | _____ Spring Dance | _____ Progressive Dinner |
| _____ Other, please specify _____ | | |

WECA is a city neighborhood organization in which all stakeholders are involved. A substantial force in strengthening community, WECA strives to create diversity, community cultural events, safe and beautiful streets, desirable housing, good schools and a thriving business corridor.

2005-2006 West End Civic Association Accomplishments & Activities

WEST END COMMUNITY CENTER

The West End Community Center is excited about its new leadership and commitment to "revitalizing its mission" to better serve our West End neighborhood and greater community. Our mission to "uniquely bring the community together" will serve as a foundation and guiding principle for our new approach to creating *exceptional services* and programming for West End residents, stakeholders, and partners.

The Center is currently transitioning to develop a stronger base of community support for its upcoming "community forums" and "symposiums" that will stimulate "good neighborhood conversations" and foster greater cultural and social awareness, relationships, and civic esteem. **Our incoming goal for 2007 is to provide a "center for neighborhood cultural expression" through the arts, social and institutional networking, and educational activities for our youth, seniors, and generally to all of our West End residents.**

What we believe is critical to this undertaking is to preserve, protect, and enhance aesthetic and historical value of our beautiful building located at 461 Farmington Ave. The West End Community Center is currently being surveyed for *placement on the National Register for Historic Preservation*, and we are working with the *CT Trust for Historic Preservation* to embark upon the preliminary and planning stages of a major capital improvement project that will bring back much of the character and splendor of the buildings earlier years. We will look to our neighborhood residents for input and support to maximize the projects' full value and potential.

Finally, please look for the West End Community Center's upcoming *newsletters and community events calendar* to showcase local talent, activities, and general information for our constituents. The West Community Center will offer its first series of seminar workshops on **January 5th, 12th, and 19th** entitled "**Fork in the Road,**" *facilitated by Donna Burman and Barbara Bennett.* For ticket information and event times, **please contact LaTonya S. Garner, Executive Director, at (860) 232-8081.**