

West End News

December 2009 / January 2010

Volume 2009, Issue 4

**[We're on the Web!
westend.org]**

WECA Board Proposes By-Law Change

At the September meeting of the Board of WECA, the board voted to amend the association by-laws to allow the possibility of two vice presidents, one from north of Farmington Avenue, one from south of Farmington Avenue.

According to the board's proposal, the positions of north side and south side vice president would be filled in separate votes. If there are no candidates from the appropriate portion of the West End for one of the positions, that position would not be filled.

This proposed by-law amendment will come before the WECA membership at the December 8 general meeting. According to the by-laws, only current members of the civic association can vote on the amendment at the meeting.

To be a member of WECA, you must have completed the enrollment form for 2009 or 2010. The form is printed on the back of this newsletter. If you are unsure whether you are a member in good standing, please contact our administrative assistant, Brenda McCumber, at 944-5300 or brendaweca@sbcglobal.net.

The thinking behind the proposal is to ensure greater geographic diversity among the officers of the civic association so that there is enhanced representation of the residents of both sections of the neighborhood.

West End Civic Association General Meeting

December 8, 2009 - 7 pm

*United Methodist Church, Farmington Avenue and
South Whitney Street*

Agenda

Prelude: Hartford Children's Theater presents special drama performance by Noah Webster's OPMAD students

Education Program:

- Dr. Steven J. Adamowski, Superintendent of Schools, presentation on the state of the schools
- Also speaking: Principals of Hartford Public High School academies and Dolores Cole, principal of Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School
- Victor De La Paz, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, presentation on School Governance Councils
- Christopher Leone, Director of Regional School Choice Office, presentation on the lottery system and how to secure a place at Noah Webster as a neighborhood resident

Announcements: Honor Roll Party in Winter 2010; Community forum in Spring 2010; College Prep Program for high school students

By-Law Amendment to Allow Possibility of Two WECA Vice Presidents, one from north of Farmington Avenue & one from south of Farmington Avenue

Other Announcements

Other Business

You're Invited: Open to All Carolers

Kids ride in the Wagon!
Many holiday traditions; two great events.
Come to either or both!

**West End Traditional
Carol-Sing
with Horse-Drawn Wagon**



Horse-drawn wagon provided by Wood Acres Farm & sponsored by the Ritter Family Fund and Attorney Kevin Carroll

Sunday, December 20, 5pm Sharp!

Gather at United Methodist Church Parking Lot
571 Farmington Ave. at S. Whitney St.

Song Books Provided

Bring Instruments, Bells, Tambourines!

Dress warmly for the weather: bring penlights

All Children must be accompanied by an Adult

Post Wagon Party

25 N. Beacon St; 6:30-9pm

Potluck: Bring your favorite holiday or comfort food to share

Info: JoAnne Bauer, 860-233-7852



Hartford Prints!

Open Studio and Holiday Sale

Saturday December 5th & Saturday December 12th
from 12pm to 4 pm.

56 Arbor Street, Suite 220, Hartford, CT 06106

facebook.com/hartfordprints

hartfordprints.blogspot.com

Hartford Prints! is the creation of Adrienne Gale of Sherman Street, and is made possible by the Hartford Arts & Heritage Jobs Grant Program, Eddie A. Perez, Mayor. Ten Hartford Public High School students are employed by *Hartford Prints!* Come to the open studio where you will be able to buy greeting cards, postcards, and a 2010 calendar all created by the students.

WECA Meeting Calendar December 2009/January 2010

Dec 3, Jan 7 **Public Safety**
Chair: Dave Jorgenson,
Jorgie54@comcast.net, 670-5454
Meets first Thursday of month, 7
pm, WECC.

Dec 7 **Education**
Co-Chairs: Sylvia Reid,
expressyourself1@mac.com, 232-
0436; Rand Cooper,
cooper13@earthlink.net, 232-
4279 Meets first Monday of the
month, 6 pm, WECC.

Dec 1, Jan 5 **Board Meeting**
7 pm, WECC, meets first Tuesday
of the month.

Dec 14, Jan 11 **Architectural
History & Resources**
Co-chairs: Jan Klein,
jacefk@gmail.net, 232-2050;
Laura Berman,
lauraannberman@gmail.com, 570
-0329. Contact Jan or Laura for
meeting place and time Meets
second Monday of month.

Dec 8 **Annual Meeting**
7 pm, United Methodist Church,
571 Farmington Avenue

TBA **Housing**
Chair: Anthony Gray,
ajgray@aya.yale.edu, 904-5769
Meets third Monday of month, 6
pm, WECC.

Education Discussion to Highlight December General Meeting

The December 8 WECA General Meeting will take up issues relating to education and schools for West Enders. Hartford School Superintendent Steven J. Adamowski will discuss the state of our schools, and the principals of Noah Webster and Hartford Public High School will update us on their institutions. Also present will be a representative of the school choice system to explain the intricacies of the application process and lottery. Victor De La Paz, an assistant to Dr. Adamowski, will discuss the new School Governance Councils and how they function. Finally, GHICEJ, a group that will soon begin running a revamped after-school program at Webster, will discuss a coming public forum on Noah Webster.

The Education Committee will report on planning for a late January party to honor Honor Roll students at West End schools. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this event should contact Sylvia Reid (expressyourself1@gmail.com) or Brenda McCumber (brendaweca@sbcglobal.net).

Our meeting begins at 6:45pm at the United Methodist Church, 571 Farmington Avenue, and will begin with fifteen minutes of live theatrical entertainment by some of our neighborhood students; the meeting proper will start at 7pm. Please come with any questions you might have regarding our schools.

Important West End phone numbers:

Crimestoppers: 1-800-445-TIPS

West End Community Service Officer Jim Elliot,
424-2034

Public Safety updates

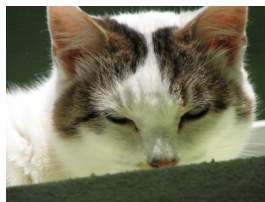
The **Public Safety Committee** met on November 5th at the West End Community Center. We discussed 2 major items: current/year-to-date crime in the neighborhood and traffic calming.

Crime in the West End - Things have been fairly quiet since the arrest of a man responsible for multiple burglaries and car breaks in the neighborhood. Nonetheless, WECA has partnered with the Hartford Police Department in an effort to deter and catch future offenders in the area. Notices have been left on car windshields by our conditions officers passing along tips to help people avoid becoming targets. **NEVER leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle** - laptops, ipods, etc. have all been left in cars, creating temptation for "crimes of opportunity". Also, park in well lit areas and always lock your doors. This is also true for keeping safe at home, as the other issue has been residential and commercial burglary, but many of these incidents involved the same offender mentioned above. That said, there will always be another criminal to come along and fill the void, so we must remain vigilant and look out for our neighbors.

Traffic Calming - Our committee has been asked to pick up where we left off last year. We were successful in getting speed tables installed on Kenyon and Girard and we need to continue with the remaining priorities. The 2 main priorities we identified during all of our canvassing and meetings over the past few years are **Warrenton Ave. and Whitney/S. Whitney Street**, especially in the area of Noah Webster School. We are planning to revisit these areas with Kevin Burnham, Director of Public Works, to discuss possible remedies. Other areas to be discussed are **Sisson Ave, Farmington Ave, Evergreen Ave, Elizabeth St, Beacon St and Terry Rd**. Most of the issues revolve around **speed, traffic control devices and painting/signage/parking**. This is an involved and complex topic, so please join us at one of our next Public Safety meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm at the WECC. The goal is to get everyone involved now so that we can begin physical improvements in the Spring. Also, we are happy to report that increased patrolling and traffic stops by HPD in the West End have resulted in better enforcement and compliance in the short term.

Caring for Cats

There are many cats that end up as strays or feral cats in the West End. For those of you who see them or perhaps even feed them, you know they are often "on the street" due to neglect by their original owners, or due to unsprayed strays having litters. It's a tough life. Winter can be a particularly rough time for our furry friends. For good information on how to help and manage strays and feral cats in the winter (and generally) please consider visiting alleycat.org. If you have questions or want to discuss problems or issues regarding a particular stray or feral cat, or to just share ideas on this topic that impacts our neighborhood, feel free to email Michael Nendick at mnendick@comcast.net.



Seeking Community Input—North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan

Currently underway, the North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan will address the unique challenges and values of urban waterways. This planning process will help to outline how natural environments are modified within a context of urban private and public property interests.

The North Branch of the Park ("Hog") River defines the boundaries of Hartford's northwestern neighborhoods: Blue Hills, West End, and Asylum Hill. Draining a 30 square mile watershed basin, the North Branch flows into a buried conduit just north of Farmington Avenue near Woodland Street. The Park River and segments of its North and South Branches were buried because of water quality and

flooding problems that have never been resolved. Over 30 combined sewer outfalls within the buried conduit routinely overflow sewage and excess stormwater run-off.

The North Branch Watershed Management plan shall identify and investigate current and emerging issues in order to recommend potential changes and funding priorities that can improve water quality. When complete, the watershed management plan will serve as a comprehensive, scientifically-sound, and practical planning document.

The project team, managed by Erik Mas, P.E. of Fuss & O'Neill, includes West End resident, Mary Pelletier, Director of Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative. The North Branch

Park River Watershed Management Plan project is a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) of the Ct DEP. SEP funding originates during settlement of environmental enforcement actions undertaken by DEP to amend the adverse public health and/or environmental impacts of violations.

Currently the project team is actively seeking input from watershed stakeholders, including property owners, recreational groups, educators, elected officials, and cultural heritage organizations. **Please find time to fill out a one-page survey.** For more information, contact Mary Rickel Pelletier, (860) 881-5089 or maryvrp@parkriver.org.

For a link to the online survey, visit www.parkriver.org

DineAround the West End on January 30



Mark your calendars to chase away mid-winter blahs, West End-style, at **DineAround the West End**, the sixth annual progressive dinner to benefit WECA on Saturday evening, January 30, 2010.

The evening, which has come to be eagerly anticipated in the neighborhood, starts at 6pm. at the home of Michael A. Peck, 200 Scarborough St. Approximately 225 guests will enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres and receive their dinner assignments. From there they will depart for dinner at one of 26 West End homes. Beginning at 10pm, dessert and coffee will be offered to guests at the home of Melanie & Ted Cannon, 222 Girard Ave.

DineAround the West End is an evening of warmth, festivity & conviviality. 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 neighborhood," says David Barrett, President of WECA. "In past years we had scores of people tell us about meeting others for the first time although

they've lived in the West End for years."

"We're very fortunate that so many in our neighborhood support this evening in so many ways," says Jan Klein, co-chair for the event. "In addition to our gracious hosts, our sponsors, at all levels really make this event possible. In this year of budget-cutting and belt-tightening, we know that some sponsors had to think twice, so we're *especially* grateful for their support."

For the sixth year in a row, the generosity of our two Platinum Candelabra sponsors is awesome: again, Galo Rodriguez of The Village for Families & Children will donate all of our fabulous hors d'oeuvres, and Louis Lista of Pond House Café will provide all of the luscious desserts. Also, at print time, Gold Charger sponsors include Mollie Abend-West End Realtor, Clemens Place, DeVars-Phillips Florist & Antiques, Amy & Kyle Bergquist-West End Real Estate News, Susie Hatch, Realtor & Ross Hatch, Hi Way Liquor-Gail & Jerry Powell, Law Firm of Berman, Bourns, Aaron & Dembo, LLC, Oxford Builders-Christian & Kate Winkley and Robyn S. Walsh & Douglas E. Humes,

Jr.. Silver Tray sponsors include American Materials Corporation-Don & Kathy Bercowetz, Gwen & Mike O'Connell and MATT PAC/Matt Ritter. Crystal Flute sponsors include DJM CARPENTRY & Design, LLC-Dave Monaco, JAPANALIA Eiko/JAPANALIA on one, Law Offices of Zlokower & Miller, LLP and Martha Page & Bill Young.

"Every year, this most popular WECA fundraiser has sold out almost immediately," adds Fi Bookwalter, co-chairing the event with Jan Klein. "Because of this, we'll continue a practice started last year - **invitations will be sent in two waves – first to WECA members in good standing, and a few days later to others on the mailing list**, so remember to complete & send in THIS YEAR'S membership form to be in the first mailing. Reservations are only confirmed with payment, so it's important to understand that the way to secure your spot is BY GETTING YOUR REPLY CARD AND CHECK RETURNED PROMPTLY after receiving your invitation in the mail." Admission is \$75 per person, no increase from last year. If you need more information, call Fi Bookwalter (232-8705), Jan Klein (232-2050) or David Barrett (509-9519).

WECA SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR CIVIC, CULTURAL, CHARITABLE GRANTS

The West End Civic Association is seeking proposals to serve residents in need in the West End.

The Hartford Court of Common Council plans to award \$10,000 to WECA from its Civic and Cultural Fund. The Board of WECA has decided to seek proposals from the community so that it can put the money to best use.

Applications may be made for the following purposes:

- Recreation
- Entertainment
- Youth programs
- Holiday Celebrations
- Cultural Celebrations
- Other Civic, Cultural or Charitable programs

All applications for funding must be for events and/or programs that are:

- Free and open to the public
- Held within the City of Hartford

-Free of any personal or financial interest to any officer, official or employee of the City of Hartford

The deadline to apply for a grant is January 1, 2010.

It is expected that the Executive Board of WECA will award grants at its February 2 meeting. Applicants will be notified of decisions following the meeting.

Here are guidelines for proposal submissions:

- Description of the program/event
- How will it be organized? Who will manage it?
- Who will be served? How many will be served?
- Why is the program needed? – be specific in demonstrating the need
- How will the program benefit the West End?
- Contact person for follow-up questions including email and phone number.

- Include a line-item income and expense budget.

- List other income sources, if any.

State whether you are applying – or planning to use – matching grant(s). If so, please provide details.

We encourage you to include letters of reference.

We do not have a cap on the size of a grant request other than the amount available.

Grant recipients will be asked to submit a final report on the results of the program/event funded by the WECA allocation.

Grant applications should be submitted to David Barrett, WECA President, by email at d Barrett@hartsem.edu, by fax at (860) 509-9509 or by mail to 257 Oxford Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

If you have any questions, please contact David Barrett, (860) 509-9519 or d Barrett@hartsem.edu

The West End Civic Association is pleased to announce this effort to strengthen our neighborhood. We look forward to working with all of you on programs to serve all our residents.

Enrollment Form

Please complete form to become a member. Please print clearly.

Name(s) _____

Home Address _____ Apt. # _____

Phone (day) _____ Evening _____

Email Address _____

WECA makes your neighborhood better, but we need your help

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

Please return completed form to:

WECA, c/o David Barrett, 257 Oxford Street, Hartford, CT 06105

Not a member of WECA? Join today!