



West End News



June 12, 2007

Annual Meeting

7 p.m. – United Methodist Church

Agenda

STATE OF THE WEST END – NEWS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF WECA

BYLAW CHANGE: ADD “AND RELATED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WEST END” AS MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY ON EXECUTIVE BOARD

HONOR OUTGOING COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION IN SMALL GROUPS BY SECTOR:

- RESIDENTS' CONCERNS
- PRIORITIES FOR ACTION IN THE COMING YEAR
- SELECTION OF SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

Message from the President: Join us for the Annual Meeting

Greetings

The West End Civic Association will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, June 12, at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, at the corner of Farmington Avenue and South Whitney Street.

This is your opportunity to tell us what we should have as priorities in the coming year. You also will elect the officers of WECA and choose representatives for the sector of the neighborhood where you live.

This year, we are proposing a change in our bylaws, which must be considered by the membership. Currently the Executive Board of WECA has three membership categories. Serving on the board are the association's officers, the chairs of its committees, and the representatives of the five sectors.

We are proposing to add “related community organizations in the West End” as a category. This would mean that an organization such as the West End Community Center could appoint a delegate to serve on the board. We are proposing this change to allow better coordination among the community organizations in the West End.

At the annual meeting, we also will have a brief update on the traffic calming measures that the city had agreed to implement or study.

But the main part of the meeting will be for you to talk to us – to suggest a work plan for WECA in the year ahead.

Please join us for this meeting, whether you are a member of WECA or not. Join your neighbors and share your thoughts. See you on June 12.

2nd Annual Farmington Avenue Street Festival

**Sat. June 9
Noon to 5 p.m.**

See details inside.....

David Barrett

President

860/509-9519 (or)

dbarrett@hartsem.edu

ABWF

A Better Way Foundation will host a Community Conversation on Thursday June 7, 6:00 PM at the Johnson Stewart Community Center, 127 Martin Street in Hartford. The theme of the Conversation will be Reintegration, an issue which impacts many West End residents, particularly those who reside in the neighborhood's Southeast Sector. ABWF would like to hear your views on reentry issues affecting ex-offenders and people in recovery, homelessness, and child support. ABWF is currently working on legislative initiatives at the State Capitol related to the reintegration of CT residents. For more information on this event, you can contact ABWF Lead Organizer Laresse Harvey at (860) 270-9585, or laresse_harvey@yahoo.com, or David Samuels at (860) 570-0782 or samuelsloflo@aol.com. Check out A Better Way Foundation's website: www.abwf-ct.org

West End Farmers' Market

The West End Farmers' Market will be opening on Tuesday June 26th with our Grand Opening Strawberry Shortcake Festival taking place on Friday June 29th 4-7pm. The Market is located at the corner of Farmington and South Whitney at the United Methodist Church. It is open Tuesdays and Fridays 4-7pm, July, August and September. If people have questions they can contact me at 997-5776,

rob77miller@hotmail.com, or visit the website at www.westend.org/farmersmarket/



Hartford Organizing for Power and Equality

Single Mothers on the Move-Victory!

For the first time in fifteen years, money was put in the state budget to have a cost of living adjustment for people receiving state assistance: TFA and SAGA. Please call Denise Merrill at 860-429-1311 or 240-0393 and Toni Harp at 203-865-2232 or 240-0393 to make sure they do not cut the increase in TFA and SAGA.

NEXT: We will be meeting with Department of Social Services Commissioner Starkowski on June 19th to discuss issues at 3580 Main Street, medications being denied on HUSKY, mistreatment by workers, RAP vouchers, child support and more! If you would like to be involved, please call 523-4870

Tenants Rights Group-Victory!!

An amendment was added to the Section Eight Voucher Reform Act II so that people would not be denied section 8 due to student loan default, bad credit, owing child support or utility bills or evictions for nonpayment of rent.

We met with Hartford Housing Authority and she did not agree that people would not be denied. If you think this is wrong, please come to our next meeting. Call 523-4870.

J'D'Amelia & Associates said applications will be opening up in June for section 8 through the state. Call 211 or H.O.P.E. at 523-4870.

H.O.P.E. Youth Council

Met with Cathy Carpino, President of Hartford teacher's Union about a code of conduct for all staff of Hartford Public Schools. She seemed interested at first but then said no.

Next up, Meeting with Superintendent Adamowski. Come to our meetings on Mondays at 3:30pm. Call 523-4870 for location. Planning a Mayoral Candidates Forum, for details, call us at 523-4870

Hartford Children's Theatre Presents...

News from the Hartford Children's Theatre Presenting Hartford Summer Youtheatre 2007 Preschool through High School

Hartford Children's Theatre, Connecticut's Premier Theatre and Drama School, is proud to present Hartford Summer Youtheatre, a theatrical immersion experience serving students in preschool through high school. The summer program curriculum is developmentally appropriate and aligned with the National Standards in Theatre. The Hartford Summer Youtheatre program allows emerging young artists to explore drama in a fun and supportive atmosphere led by an outstanding faculty of experienced teaching artists. For an extra charge, an Early Drop Off/Late Pick Up option allows interested parents to drop off students as early as 8AM and pick up students in grades K-12 as late as 6PM.

Dramatic Play Days (Ages 3-5, not yet entered Kindergarten) This program meets for two weeks, Monday-Friday, 9AM-Noon. **Choose from 2 sessions: June 25 – July 6* & July 9 – July 20**

Discovery Company (Kindergarten-Grade 3) (2 Week or 4 Week Sessions) This program meets for two weeks, Monday-Friday, 9AM-5PM. **Choose from 2 sessions: July 2-13* & July 16-17**

Youth Company (Grades 4-8) and Teen Company (Grades 9-12) One session offered: **July 2-27 *** (performances 7/28)

***Please note – There will be NO Hartford Summer Youtheatre programming on July 4th**

For complete descriptions of our programs please call 860.249.7970 or visit our website at www.hartfordchildrenstheatre.org



WECA Membership

Hello Everybody!

We have had a great year in membership. We raised close to \$12,000 in membership dues! A great big thank you to all who contributed! I also want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the people that volunteer their time to help with various WECA projects and serve on committees. We would not function without you!!!

I would like to let you know that I will be stepping down as membership chair in June. I have had a wonderful experience in meeting the residents of the west end and listening to everybody's concerns. If you have any questions or comments about WECA please e-mail me at DTmisha@hotmail.com or call me at 231-8259. Enjoy your summer!

Dore Thomas, WECA Membership chair

Advocate Best of Hartford 2007 Readers' Poll Includes 7 West End Businesses

Congratulations to the following Hartford West End establishments that were ranked top in their class in the Advocate's Best of Hartford Readers' Poll:

Best Martini and Best Local Coffeehouse - Tisane's Tea and Coffee Bar

Best Brazilian Restaurant - Churrascaria Braza

Best Irish Pub and Best Overall Pub and Best for getting you out on a Wednesday - Half Door

Best Korean Restaurant - Ichiban Japanese and Korean Restaurant

Best Pub Food - Wood 'n' Tap

Best Breakfast Spot - Mo's Midtown

Best Tuxedo Store - J.T. Ghamo

Links to more information on these can be found on the Farmington Asylum Business District (FABD) Forum on Urban Forum (www.urbanforum.org). Also on the FABD Forum is a profile of the **Connecticut Housing Investment Fund (CHIF)**, a well established West End based non profit located on Tremont Street. Phil Will has also recorded

his reflections on the 30 year history of **Clemens Place**, the largest historic housing rehabilitation project ever undertaken in New England. These articles also appeared in the FABD email newsletter which is available by subscription at the newsletter link on www.fabd.org.



A Concert to Benefit Four Shelters in Hartford

St John's Outreach Committee presents Cleveland Williams (baritone) and Carrie Wilson (soprano) with pianist David Chrzanowski in concert Saturday evening, June 9 at 7:30 pm, in a concert of Handel, Schubert, Strauss, Sandoval, Faure, Puccini, Verdi and Gershwin. All money raised will be given to four shelters in Hartford: Immaculate Conception Shelter & Housing, South Park Inn, My Sisters' Place and Mercy Housing and Shelter. Admission, payable at the door, is \$20 for adults; children free. St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, Hartford.

WECA's Architecture Committee Revived!

With a new name, and new co-chairs, the WECA Architectural History & Resources Committee held its first meeting on April 18, with more than a dozen interested committee members present. Chairing the committee are Jeff Jahnke, an architect who lives on Warrenton Ave., and Jan Klein of Girard Ave., an Educator at the Connecticut Historical Society. The committee had been inactive for a few years, and it was a happy coincidence that Jeff and Jan separately expressed an interest to David Barrett, WECA President, in reviving the group.

"Jeff and I are excited that our interests about architecture in the West End are somewhat different, but complement each other well," said Jan. Education - about the history of the neighborhood and its architecture - is what appeals to her, while the "nuts and bolts" issues around restoration, renovation & preservation are Jeff's forte. As a result, the committee discussed possible projects ranging from a WECA website "database" of practical information about contractors and guidance about the new Hartford city ordinance "Guidelines for Renovations and Additions to Historic Buildings" to facilitating future neighborhood architectural walking tours and publishing "how-to" guides for researching the history of a house or obtaining a National Historic District plaque for one's home.

The committee met for a second time on May 14 at the Connecticut Historical Society, inviting residents of Tremont Street (between Cone Street & Farmington Avenue) and representatives from the City of Hartford to participate in a discussion of the City's plan regarding sidewalk replacement along the east side of Tremont Street due to the current work being completed by the MDC.

There will be one more meeting of the committee before breaking for the summer, on Monday June 4 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Christian & Kate Winkley, 183 Oxford Street. For more information, please contact Jan Klein, 232-2050, jacefk@comcast.net or Jeff Jahnke, 523-4088, jwj@jahnkearchitecture.com.

FREE CONCERT

The Parkville Classics present The Musical Friends in a free concert of Baroque music on Saturday June 23rd at 7:30 PM at Grace Episcopal Church 55 New Park Ave. Hartford. A reception follows to greet the musicians.

For further information contact Ellen Morse at 860-649-6192.

TAG SALE

The residents with addresses on the first block of Kenyon Street is having its second annual "WEST END TAGS" Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24. We will be expanding it a few blocks and see if we can grow it, Girard, to North Beacon, north of Farmington to Asylum Avenue

WECA Calendar June/July 2007

June 5, Board meeting, 7 pm, WECC, no Board meeting in July

June 12, Annual Meeting, 7 pm, United Methodist Church, 571 Farmington Ave.

Committee Meetings

June 4, Architectural History & Resources—
Chairs: Jan Klein, jacefk@comcast.net, 232-2050 Jeff Jahnke, jwj@jahnkearchitecture.com, 523-4088

Meet at 183 Oxford Street, 6 pm, planning session, final meeting until September.

June 14, Public Safety —

Chair: Dave Jorgenson, Jogie54@comcast.net, 670-5454

July 12 Meets second Thursday of month, 7 pm, WECC, Discuss results of traffic calming initiative, home safety measures that deter crime, and any new business.

June 11, Education —

Chair: Sylvia Reid, expressyourself1@mac.com, 233-0436

Meets second Monday of the month, 6 pm, WECC, planning session and discussion of upcoming Summer Youth Jam on June 16, no meeting in July.

June 18, Housing —

Chairs: Sonia Ayala, soniaa0924@aol.com, 233-2980

Ed Karban, ekarb@aol.com, 525-7446

Meets third Monday of month, 6 pm, WECC, June 18 planning session for upcoming tenant's information meeting. No meeting in July.

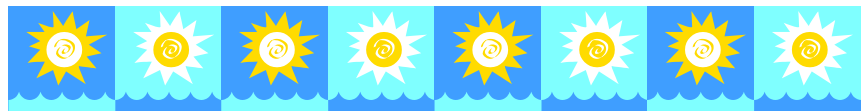
Public Safety

The Public Safety Committee met on Thursday, May 10th at the WECC. The following topics were discussed:

1. Traffic Calming - Temporary speed bumps to be installed by the end of the month according to the city.
2. There was a robbery at CVS on Farmington Ave. The suspect struggled with and escaped the on-site security guard, but was later apprehended by HPD.
3. Vanessa Grocery busted for selling alcohol to kids under 21. Their liquor license was already suspended when they were busted, so the case is now with the state liquor commission. As a result of this and many other problems with convenience stores around Hartford, the city has had a new ordinance proposed for consideration. The ordinance would pertain to all stores open between the hours of 10PM and 5AM and require the following of these stores:
 - a. Extra security
 - b. Plexi glass enclosures for cashiers
 - c. Security cameras
 - d. Drop safes
 - e. Lit parking areas
 - f. Clear windows - no posters/signs blocking view in/out of store
 - g. Silent alarm
 - h. Possible requirement of minimum of 2 employees in store
4. Car breaks - There are still a few car breaks taking place between Farmington and Warrenton, but they were not reported to HPD. People must report these types of issues to HPD Dispatch at 527-6300 or these issues will be harder to get a hold of. If they know about it, they can do something about it.

Please join the Public Safety Committee at our next meeting on Thursday June 14th, 2007 at 7PM in the West End Community Center.

David Jorgensen, Chair
WECA Public Safety Commit



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