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October/November 2007



West End News

Message from the President

Greetings

One of the most important activities of the West End Civic Association is our general meeting every other month. These meetings provide all of us a chance to meet our neighbors, learn what's happening in the West End and bring up what's on our minds.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 9, at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church (corner of South Whitney Street and Farmington Avenue).

At this meeting, Mayor Eddie Perez will be present to hear our feedback on the speed tables installed over the summer on Girard Avenue, Kenyon Street and Prospect Avenue. We would like to have the city commit to installing permanent tables in 2008; a good turnout will help us make our case.

In addition, at the April general meeting, Mayor Perez committed to studying Warrenton Avenue and Whitney Street, where Noah Webster School is located, to determine what traffic calming measures could be implemented on these two streets. We are eager to hear what the city plans to do to slow traffic on these busy streets.

Also on the agenda will be a report on the Public Safety Dispatch Center. We would like to know of any experiences you have had with the dispatch center.

On another topic, I have been appointed to the city's Property Tax Reform Task Force. This task force, which has eleven members, will make recommendations to the mayor and City Council. Please contact

me if you would like to suggest ideas. Property tax reform will affect all of us, whether we are a homeowner, a tenant or a business owner.

Back to the general meeting - please join us at the church for this meeting, whether you are a member of WECA or not. Join your neighbors and share your thoughts. Together we can make the West End a better place to live, work, shop, and stroll. See you on October 9.

David Barrett

President

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October 9, 2007 General Meeting *7 p.m. – United Methodist Church*



Agenda

- Welcome
- Traffic Issues in the West End – A Conversation With Mayor Eddie Perez
- Traffic calming – What do you think of the new speed tables?
- Traffic enforcement
- The Public Safety Dispatch Center – Is It Working?
- Update on the West End Farmers' Market
- Meet Charlie Ortiz, the New Membership Chair
- The Old "Roo Bar" Building on Farmington Avenue: An Update on the New Restaurant Being Built In The Space
- Honoring Students on the Honor Roll at Our Neighborhood Schools
- Announcements
- Other business

Event to Celebrate Honor Roll Students

On Saturday December 15, 12:00 P.M. at the Village for Children and Families, Albany Ave., Hartford, The Hartford Metropolitan Area Youth Choir and WECA Education Committee is sponsoring a Christmas Celebration honoring Honor Roll Students from Hartford Public, Classical Magnet, and Noah Webster grade 8 and above.

This event is designed specifically to give students and their parents an opportunity to celebrate their commitment to excellence and hard work, and to encourage them to keep up the good work as they complete their

education.

The only requirement is that a parent or guardian must accompany the student to this event as there will be games and contests which require their presence.

Helpers, Volunteers, Donations, are hereby requested. To make a donation or volunteer to help, contact Sylvia Reid, Education Committee chair, at 233-7913 or 539-1552. Or write her at expressyourself1@gmail.com.



Hartford Organizing for Power & Equality-H.O.P.E.

H.O.P.E. had a successful Mayoral Candidates Forum on September 18 after the Democratic primary. Over 100 people were in attendance, with a large showing from the West End. All of H.O.P.E.'s member groups, including WECA, asked questions of the candidates and received signed commitments in response. The Forum will be shown on Hartford Public Access. Please call H.O.P.E. at 523-4870 to find out how to get more involved.

HOPE's Tenants Rights Group has been busy. Over the summer, the group met with the D'Amelia and Associates and Hartford Housing Authority regarding section 8 vouchers and how their rules deny families with bad credit from receiving vouchers.

Over 48,000 people in Connecticut applied for section 8 from D'Amelia and Associates with only 12,000 vouchers available, which shows how large a problem affordable housing is. We are continuing to work on this.

On October 18, at location to be announced, Orlando Cabrera of HUD in Washington, DC will be in Hartford to meet with H.O.P.E. Mr. Cabrera is in charge of section 8 vouchers and all public and Indian housing. If you are interested in attending or want to be involved in planning a tour, please call 523-4870.

After winning \$9 million dollars this year and \$13 million dollars for next year in the state budget for a cost of living increase in cash assistance, Single Mothers on the Move is continuing its battle on poverty. SMoM met with the

Chief of Staff of Commissioner of Social Services Starkowski in August and is planning another meeting in October. Meetings are on the Third Wednesday at 6pm at the Asylum Hill Family Center at 887 Asylum Avenue, corner of Asylum and Sigourney Street.

HOPE Youth Council is still working toward accountability for teachers and staff in Hartford Public Schools. We have asked for a code of conduct with clear consequences for violations and are now working toward the creation of a Teachers Review Board. Please call 523-4870 for meeting times.

The Parkville Classics present...

The Parkville Classics will present The Mirror of the Baroque with soprano Sudie Marcuse in a free concert featuring Purcell and Handel among others on Saturday, October 20th at 7:30 at Grace Episcopal Church, 55 New Park Ave. Hartford. A reception follows to greet the musicians.

For further information: Ellen Morse, Parkville Classics chairman 860-649-6192



WECA Calendar October/November 2007

Oct. 2, Nov 13 **Board Meeting**, 7 pm, West End Community Center

Oct. 9 **General Meeting**, 7 pm, United Methodist Church, 571 Farmington Avenue

Committee Meetings:

Oct.15, Nov. 12 **Architectural History & Resources**

Co-chairs: Jan Klein, jacefk@comcast.net, 232-2050
Jeff Jahnke, [jwj@jahnkearchitecture.com](http://www.jahnkearchitecture.com), 523-4088.

Meets second Monday of the month, 6 pm. October meeting date is changed due to Columbus Day. Location TBA, contact Jan or Jeff for location.

Oct. 25, Nov. 15 **Public Safety**

Chair: Dave Jorgenson, Jorgie54@comcast.net, 670-5454.

Usually meets third Thursday of month, 7 pm, WECC. October meeting changed.

Oct. 1, Nov. 5 **Education**

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

Meets first Monday of the month, 6 pm, WECC. Planning holiday recognition of High School Honor Roll students.

Oct. 8, Nov. 19 **Housing**

Co-chairs: Sonia Ayala, soniaa0924@aol.com, 233-2980
Ed Karban, ekarb@aol.com, 525-7446.

Meets third Monday of month, 6 pm, WECC.
Planning Tenants' Rights Meeting on October 22.



News from the Hartford Children's Theatre

2007-2008 LINCOLN FINANCIAL MAINSTAGE SEASON

Subscriptions on sale now. Don't miss
all four shows:

"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE
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"THE BOXCAR CHILDREN"

"THE BIG FRIENDLY GIANT"

"PAPER LANTERNS, PAPER
CRANES"

For a complete brochure and informa-
tion on the upcoming season, please go
to our website :

www.hartfordchildrenstheatre.org

or call the office at 860-249-7970

Subscribe today and save!



We are Immanuel Congregational Church

Our members come from many diverse neighborhoods in Hartford and surrounding towns. We are young and old, straight and gay, white, black, Latino, single, married, rich, poor and in-between – in other words, we look a lot like the West End.

We invite you to join us for Sunday Worship and Church School at 10:00 AM. Childcare is provided.

No matter where you are on life's journey, a warm welcome awaits you here.

IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Corner of Farmington Avenue and Woodland Street

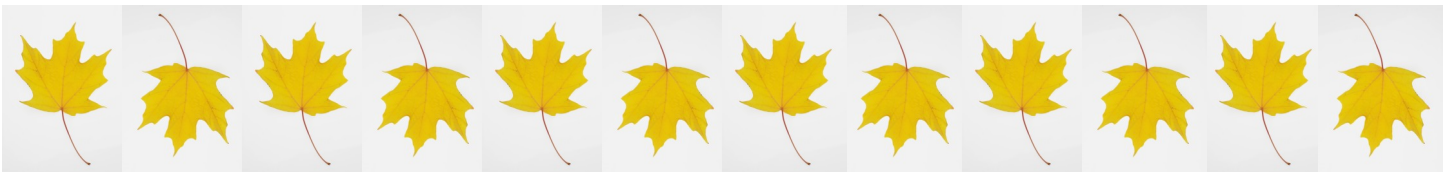
(Parking off Woodland Street – look for signs)

For further information, call 527-8121 or visit our website at www.iccucc.org

The Rev. Dr. Edward Horstmann, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Nancy Allen, Associate Pastor

Immanuel is proud to sponsor this issue of WECA's neighborhood newsletter



Not a member of WECA? Join today!

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