

West End News

Volume 2008, Issue 1

February/March 2008

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West End Civic Association General Meeting

February 12, 2008

7 p.m. – United Methodist Church

Agenda

SPECIAL PROGRAM
ON THE HARTFORD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

“The Hartford Public Schools
Redesign Plan and the Impli-
cations for the West End” –
Dr. Steven Adamowski,
Superintendent of Schools

Presentations by:

Dee Cole, Principal, Noah
Webster Micro Society Magnet
School

Zandralyn Gordon, Principal,
Hartford Public High School

Timothy J. Sullivan, Jr.,
Principal, Classical Magnet
School

Dr. Elizabeth Colli, Principal,
University High School of
Science & Engineering

Questions from the Audience

UPDATES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

to invite you to an evening with

DR. STEVEN

ADAMOWSKI,

HARTFORD'S SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Tuesday, February 12, 7:00 P.M.

at the United Methodist Church

571 Farmington Ave. Hartford

Call: 860-509-9519 or 860-539-1552 for details



Discussion will focus on the ambitious project recommended by Adamowski to reorganize the schools. This includes the splitting up of Hartford Public High School.

Come and find out what this means for the West End residents and the students who are affected all over the region.

Other speakers include the principals from Noah Webster, Hartford Public, Classical Magnet, and Science and Engineering and others.

Come voice your opinion now, while plans are under construction.

President's Message

Greetings

Please join us at the February General meeting for a special program on education issues in the West End. Steven Adamowski, superintendent of schools, will attend and speak about the dramatic changes he is proposing.

Also attending will be the principals of the schools that serve the West End, to offer their plans for their schools.

This is an important subject; a quality school system is essential for the future vitality of Hartford. Come to listen and to express your opinions. Members of the Board of Education also will be

present, so this is your chance to have your voice heard.

Join us at the church for this meeting, whether you are a member of WECA or not. Join your neighbors and share your thoughts. See you on February 12.

David Barrett
President



WECA Calendar

February / March 2008

Feb. 5, Mar. 4

Board meeting, 7 pm, West End Community Center (WECC)

Feb. 12

General Meeting, 7 pm, United Methodist Church,

571 Farmington Avenue

Education forum, speakers: Dr. Steven Adamowski, Superintendent, and the principals of West End schools

Feb. 4, Mar. 3 Education

Chair: Sylvia Reid,

expressyourself1@gmail.com, 233-0436.

Meets first Monday of the month, 6 pm, WECC.

Feb. 11, Mar 10 Architectural History & Resources

Co-chairs: Jan Klein,

jacefk@comcast.net, 232-2050

Jeff Jahnke, jwj@jahnkearchitecture.com, 523-4088.

Meets second Monday of the month, 6 pm. Location TBA, contact Jeff for information.

Feb. 18, Mar. 17 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.

Feb. 21, Mar. 20 Public Safety

Chair: Dave Jorgensen,

Jorgie54@comcast.net,

670-5454.

Meets third Thursday of month, 7 pm, WECC.

Obituary: Steven D. Park

The City of Hartford and our West End neighborhood has lost a beloved member. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends:

Steven D. Park, 58, formerly of Hartford, passed from this life Sunday, January 20. Raised in Cohasset, MA, he moved to the Hartford area after graduating from Drew University. He had an interesting and varied life. Steven started out in the insurance field and then was in real estate, eventually establishing his own real estate company.

His true love was civic involvement; he was President of the West End Civic Association in the 1990's. He believed in the City of Hartford, working for its betterment by serving on the City Council from 1996 to 1999, spearheading the revitalization and reconstruction of the Municipal Government of Hartford. With a vast knowledge of the city's real estate market, Park helped the city plan for its economic future. He pushed for a transit plan and an independent parking authority to run the city's parking lots.

H.O.P.E Happenings

Hartford Organizing for Power and Equality Third Annual Assembly

**Wednesday, February 6 at 6pm at the Asylum Hill Congregational Church
814 Asylum Avenue**

Are you having a hard time paying for housing?

Are you tired of fighting with the State for cash assistance and/or food stamps?

Do you want to work with people in your neighborhood?

Do you want a code of conduct for Hartford Public School staff?

Are you concerned about immigration raids ?

Then you should join us.

Stories about the year, elections to the Board of Directors, Thank yous and Awards.

Call H.O.P.E. with questions at 523-4870 Refreshments and child care will be available.

Single Mothers on the Move has determined their legislative priorities for the 2008 legislative session:

- Increase the number of Rental Assistance Program vouchers and to look at how the vouchers are distributed.
- Maintain the money Single Mothers won in the budget for an increase in cost of living adjustment for those who are on cash assistance.
- Increase the amount of child support money that is passed through to go to the children instead of to the state.

Clemens Place Tenants Association being formed. To join, please call 523-4870.

Steven's strength lay in bringing people together, helping to solve their problems, and always sensing those that needed compassion. He was the type of person to rush outside in the mornings after winter storms to help push neighbors' cars from the snow, his mother, Christine Park, told The Hartford Courant.

"That was his thing," Christine Park said. "His whole thrust was that people should help each other."

Park often preached the mantra passed down to him from his father and grandfather of doing "two kindnesses" a day — a lesson his mother said Park also gave to his two sons, Michael and Alexander.

Besides Michael and Alexander, Steven is survived by their mother Anya, his sister Victoria, his brother William and his mother Christine. Donations may be made to The Open Hearth, P.O. Box 1077, Hartford, CT 06143.

The West End Civic Association will make a donation in Steven's memory to The Open Hearth to recognize his service to the community. It also will remember him at the next general meeting on Tuesday, February 12 at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, corner of Farmington Avenue and South Whitney Street.

H.O.P.E. Tenants Rights Group

Due to recent issues with rising rents and lack of support to stop displacement of renters, H.O.P.E. members attended the City Council Housing Committee meeting on November 20 and proposed various ordinances, including:

- An ordinance that all new owners must notify tenants in writing within one week of ownership of the new owners name and address, even if the management does not change.
- An ordinance that an owner must meet with group of tenants if they request a meeting. (Could be some restrictions such as group must represent at least 10% of occupied units).
- An anti-displacement ordinance requiring 6 month written notice to tenants if an owner is not renewing their leases.

After H.O.P.E.'s efforts, the Fair Rent Commission met recently to discuss a Sherman Street apartment case. However, FRC determined that it was alright to raise the rent \$400 to \$1200 for a 2 bedroom. H.O.P.E. is supporting an appeal and looking at the rules and procedures for the commission.

H.O.P.E. won a victory that the Hartford Housing Authority will not deny a family a voucher if you have bad credit or defaulted on your student loans. If you have been turned down for a voucher, please call us to get involved.

Properties owned by Boulevard West recently changed ownership. H.O.P.E. is interested in hearing if rents have been raised. Please contact us at 523-4870 if you want help forming a tenant association or want to be a part of H.O.P.E. Tenants Group.

DineAround Gets Four Stars!

“DineAround the West End,” the West End Civic Association’s signature fundraiser, sold out this year in a record four days! To increase capacity, additional homes & seats were added so that 230 people could gather on January 26 for a festive, fun evening!

In it’s 4th year, the dinner has become a great tradition and a celebration of the community that is the West End. From wine and hors d’oeuvres at the home of Annelieke & Peter Schauer through 24 unique dinner parties to dessert and coffee at the home of Michael & Suzanne Buenaventura, a grand time was had by all. Each host added unique & personal touches to the event from food to décor to entertainment – even dancing at the dessert reception!

“This was a great way for neighbors to get acquainted and reunited,” said David Barrett, President of WECA. “We had a wonderful mix of newcomers to the neighborhood (even as dinner hosts!) and long-time residents. People met for the first time or renewed old acquaintances.”

WECA especially thanks the generous sponsors for the event:

Platinum Candelabras:

- Pond House Café
- The Village for Families & Children

Gold Chargers:

- Mollie Abend, West End Realtor
- DeVars-Phillips Florist & Antiques
- Law Offices of Berman, Bourns, Aaron & Dembo, LLC
- Oxford Builders – Christian & Kate Winkley



Silver Trays:

- Fedex Kinko’s Print & Copy Center
- Russell Rhea – All Mortgage Services

Crystal Flutes:

- Rachael & James Cash
- Churrascaria Braza
- JAPANALIA ON ONE/Gallery eleven
- Martha Page & Bill Young
- Law Offices of Zlokower & Miller, LLP

“WECA is grateful to our outstanding Dinner Committee co-chairs, Fi Bookwalter of Kenyon Street and Jan Klein of Girard Avenue,” Barrett said. But Jan & Fi note that David’s own tireless effort and leadership was the very core of the committee which also included Carleen Bell, Eleanor & Dale Blake, Francine Christiansen, Mary Jane Eisen, Mark Fisher, Tracy Gale, David Klein, Sally Lerman & Karen Will. The hard work by EVERYONE involved resulted in making this year’s event the most successful yet, raising approximately \$12,000 for WECA!

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD TAG SALE

We are planning to have a West End neighborhood wide tag sale in the spring! We need people to help plan and organize for this fun event! Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, February 19 at 4:30 at the West End Community Center. Please call Dore Thomas at 231-8259 if you have questions or would like to help plan for this fun event!

IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
10 WOODLAND STREET , HARTFORD
860-527-8121 www.iccucc.org

February 9: 7:30 PM

Voce Benefit Performance

Works by Eric Whitacre, Morten Lauridsen, Duke Ellington, Bobby McFerrin, African American Spirituals, and the world premier of a two new works by Connecticut composer and Immanuel member, David Byrne. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Loaves and Fishes Ministries, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to revitalizing the Asylum Hill neighborhood. \$20 Advanced Sale General Admission (Advanced tickets will be held at the door); \$25 General Admission; \$15 Senior/Student.

February 23: 7:30 PM

The Woodland Concert Series presents International Championship Of Collegiate A Cappella

Tickets are available on-line at www.woodlandconcertseries.org.

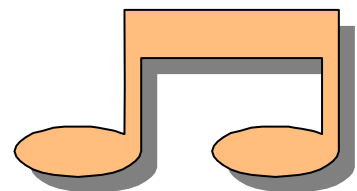
Cheer on your favorites as several college choral groups – some of whom are from area colleges – vie to stay alive in their quest to be crowned the best at the international finals competition at Lincoln Center. Hear singing in its purest form.

March 15: 7:30 PM

The Woodland Concert Series presents Boston Gay Men's Chorus

Tickets are available on-line at www.woodlandconcertseries.org.

The 175 voices of BGMC will perform classical and popular works in a program featuring the world premiere of a piece written by Lowell Lieberman.



New Advertising Opportunity

Advertise your business in the West End News

\$100 buys a business-card-sized ad

Reach all households in the West End (more than 3,000 homes and apartments) through door-to-door delivery

Published five times a year – every other month starting in September

To place an ad, contact Jill Donan, newsletter editor, at wecanews@yahoo.com or David Barrett at (860) 509-9519

Spend Your Vacation With The Hartford Children's Theatre



Hartford Children's Theatre (HCT) is now accepting registrations for its **week-long school vacation performance program** in February and April.

Designed especially for students in grades K through 8, HCT's vacation program focus on developing performance pieces inspired by award-

winning children's books that explore issues of tolerance. Students will have the opportunity to present their pieces for the public at a local library, as well as participate in a variety of age appropriate and fun performing arts workshops throughout the week.

The program is offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in three sessions:

- * Session 1: February 18-22
- * Session 2: April 14-18
- * Session 3: April 21-25

All sessions are held on Hartford Children's Theater's campus, located across the street from the Mark Twain House and on Farmington Avenue in Hartford.

Tuition is \$325 per session with early drop off and late pick-up available for a small fee. Early drop-off is available at 8 a.m. and late pick-up until 6 p.m. (an additional \$25 for each option for the week or \$50 for both options for the week). There is a non-refundable \$15 registration fee per family.

We hope you will consider becoming part of the HCT family. Registration can be done easily and quickly by calling 860-249-7970, ext. 12. For additional information, visit

www.hartfordchildrenstheatre.org.

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