



Neighborhood Pride!

The East End Voice

www.eastendwc.org

East End
Neighborhood
Association
Newsletter

Volume 1
Issue 10

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**A new year is a chance for a new beginning
 Even when there hasn't been an end
 Wheels turn , not spinning, but in a determined bend
 Yet, marked in many spots, on each other we must depend
 Each year we hope to do a little better
 Believing all past woes can be changed
 As hopes, dreams, resources, and relationships are arranged
 So we must work and commit, if we plan to be a vision setter**

EENA wishes you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

www.eastendwc.org

The East End Neighborhood Association's Officers

Steve Graves	Acting-President
Carrie Brisbon	Secretary
Sonya Thomas	Treasurer

Newsletter Staff

We would love to hear from you. In addition to contacting the EENA office at 610-696-2110, feel free to contact our newsletter staff listed below. Comments, concerns and questions are always welcome, as are articles or topics of interest. Please include your name and contact information. Please try to type your article if at all possible.

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Geoff Brace	Elm Street Manager	gbrace@wcbid.com

Mission Statement

Our mission is to strengthen our neighborhood through positive activities that will promote education, community involvement, pride in ownership and civic pride. Our goals are to promote the success, well-being and future economic growth of our community and to leave a worthy inheritance to our posterity. Individually and collectively, we intend to promote the well-being of our community and the general well-being of West Chester's communities at large.



Memories of the West Chester Elks

On November 26th, 2005 the Captain Levi M. Hood Elks Lodge #159 presented Stephen Bond with their Community Service Award. What follows are Mr. Bond's remarks to those assembled:



Borough Councilman
Stephen Bond

Growing up with the Elks organization was an important part of my life because it was a strong force in the community. It wasn't just about the parties; it was their strong sense of tradition. The Elks were involved in the community and politics of the day. They encouraged and groomed many musicians and band leaders. They sponsored bus trips for kids and raised money for community activities. They sponsored Troop #66, the first Black Boy Scout troop of West Chester in

1934 and ran it until the 1970's. Drum, bugle corps and drill teams were part of the lively spirit that made the East End a community. Drill teams; spit shined boots and white shoe polish for the girls. When I was a kid my grandfather would walk me up to the train station down from the Elks. We would stand on the cobblestone street and watch the parade go by. Mr. Presbury or Deany Walls would carry that big rack of antlers followed by the color guard carrying the flags. We had the rifle squads twirling rifles and wearing sharply pressed uniforms with boots sparkling like glass. We could hear the drums all over West Chester as they marched around town. All of the kids would start running toward Market Street hollering to everyone on the way, letting them know the parade had started. Of course, they already heard the drums from their house too. I loved the sound of those boots hitting the street, keeping the cadence of the drill sergeant; left, left, left right left, kicking it. There were young girls with their white boots and tassels, hips shaking skirts flying and batons twirling. Young boys marching in tight formations like experienced soldiers; which many of them became. All of the businesses on Market Street were open; Black folks having fun, and Black businesses making

money. We had a community that was alive and rich in traditions and values. The Elks was just a piece of an entire community that had focus, direction and leaders with vision.

Many years later my four children were members of the Elks Drill Teams. We spent many Saturdays marching in Philly, Reading, Pottstown, Coatesville, and Chester on Mother's Day. The excitement and energy was still there. I was proud to see the legacy continue. I say thanks to all of the Elks parents and volunteers that gave selflessly to those kids and got them to and from parades safely. All the behind the scene turmoil and confusion during the many hours of preparations melted into the background when those kids hit the street. We must continue to beat the drum, beat it loud enough to wake the spirits of every Elk that walked through the doors of the Elks Home. We must continue to march as a symbol of hope for the next generation youth in our community. Thank you for this Community Service Award. It is an honor to accept and I hope it signals a community that once again is on the rise!



Captain Levi M. Hood Elks Lodge #159, located on East Market Street

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Bond
Borough Council 2nd Ward



Important Announcement

EENA will be voting to consider changes to the By Laws and also a proposed slate of nominees to fill slots on the board of directors and officers on January 12th.

You can now advertise in the East End Voice

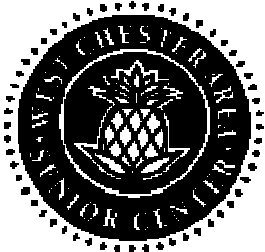
Starting in the October issue of the East End Voice, we are accepting advertising. The pricing is as follows:

Full Page—\$100 Half Page—\$50 Quarter Page—\$25

Circulation: 300 community-wide, with an additional 100 mailed and/or emailed to business owners, concerned people and neighbors living in the greater West Chester vicinity.



Senior Center Update



The West Chester Area Senior Center will be moving into its new location at 530 E. Union St. on December 27, 2005. Regular programming will resume on January 3rd with new and exciting activities underway. The Director, Amy Ballian, is also happy to report that the capital drive has managed to raise one million dollars, but would like to remind all of West Chester that the capital drive goal was set at 1.5 million dollars and is still underway.

The West Chester Area Senior Center is moving due to limited parking and activity areas for seniors. The new location features an expanded dining/banquet hall and kitchen, larger recreational and exercise rooms, an improved computer classroom, and a wellness office for private consultations with healthcare professionals. There is also a significant amount of safe, off-street parking available. The Center is headed towards new horizons and wants all community members to be a part of it.



Staff and Architect Susan Friens at the reception desk inside the new West Chester Senior Center

The West Chester Area Senior Center was founded in 1975 to offer older adults friendship, recreation, and intellectual stimulation. It has been at its current location on Market Street since 1986, where seniors participate in exercise and computer skill classes, as well as games and crafts. Community members of all ages are invited to attend breakfast at the Center three times per week for a small fee. For thirty years, this establishment has provided older adults with the opportunity to remain independent and active in the commu-

nity. For more information about the West Chester Area Senior Center, please visit the Senior Center webpage at www.wcseniors.org or call the center 610-431-4242. The Center is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday - 8am until 3pm and Tuesday and Thursday 10am until 3pm.



Staff and volunteers mark the Senior Center's milestone of \$1 million dollars in their capital drive.

Introducing The Art Scene

On January 28, 2006, the East End can expect another addition to the neighborhood. Ben Gall, the owner of the Holland Art Gallery, which was previously located on Market Street in Downtown West Chester, has decided to relocate his operations into the East End at 530 Union Street, occupying the rear portion of the same building currently occupied by Judge Knapp and soon to be occupied by the West Chester Area Senior Center.

The new operations will actually expand significantly from the art gallery. Under the new name of The Arts Scene (TAS), the East End will play host to a film house and theater that will seat up to 125 people, hosting two film evenings a month. In addition, arts and cultural lectures, workshops for children and adults and musical performances will be a part of TAS. The hope is to get this organized under a non-profit model and "to add a vibrant, progressive, fun and entertaining cultural center to Chester County."

At present, events are planned from the opening until March 15, 2006, including musical performances, poetry, an art workshop, screening of the winning films for the 2006 West Chester Film Festival and a four handed piano concert. For more information, contact Ben Gall at heartscene@aol.com and ask to be added to his email list. He can also be reached by phone at 610-644-6555.



Elm Street Report: The Rubber Meets the Road

On October 31st, EENA took the next step in its effort to be designated as an Elm Street Community. Such a designation would allow EENA to tap into Community Reinvestment Grants that could be used to improve public infrastructure or offer grants to residents for façade improvements. This step was taken when the Elm Street Plan was submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development for review and approval.



Geoff Brace, EENA's Elm
Street Manager

The Elm Street Plan was created with the guidance of EENA leaders Marv and Shirley Porter, Steve Graves, Steve Bond, Ramona Lang and Vandella Williams. The plan was approved by EENA at its September retreat and later endorsed by Borough Council. This plan is meant to be the guiding document for EENA over the next several years as EENA looks to improve the neighborhood and attract resources for investment and community programming. By utilizing this document, EENA can attract Operation Grants and Community Reinvestment Grants which could total \$300,000 per year.

Since the application has been submitted to Harrisburg, the Elm Street Manager, Geoff Brace, has been working with EENA leaders and volunteers to begin forming committees that will allow EENA to manage the workload of the plan. These committees are divided into five categories and include Safe, Clean and Green, Design, Neighbors and Economy, Image and Identity and Sustainable Organization. EENA will then recruit volunteers to help fill out the committees and begin the process of implementing programs to benefit the neighborhood.

Hopefully, in the next year, through Elm Street grants and other grants, EENA will begin façade improvements, sidewalk improvements, building renova-

tions, a neighborhood watch and even begin a homeowner program to draw new families into the neighborhood to own their own home. These opportunities are exciting and will require a great deal of work and effort to begin and accomplish, but the rewards will be well worth the effort.

Open Letter to the Community

From Borough Councilman Stephen Bond

I would like to take this opportunity to address our neighborhood. I want to challenge all of you to make a responsible choice to step up and help rebuild your community. Days of someone else being responsible for our future are long gone! Many of our dedicated family, friends and neighbors have spent countless hours and many meetings developing the necessary strategy for our success. We have reached back to our past and reshaped our future. A strong foundation has been laid by creating new relationships with our state and local government and many local organizations. We have not seen this level of cooperation in a very long time. Those who came before us would be proud of our progress. We must have your help to continue. Recently we have taken on a new responsibility; that new responsibility is to reestablish the Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center (formally the West Chester Community Center) as the central resource for our community. This historic beacon of hope deserves to be restored and protected. With a new executive board in place and a common vision, we have started the process of restoring the Center's lost respect and dignity. We have reviewed the bylaws, mission statement, program status and all financial structures. All future decisions will be made by the Melton Center Board and operate consistently with established board policies. The last caretakers of the Center left this building in ruin. They betrayed our trust, destroyed critical relationships, removed documentation, all while paying numerous employees and letting bills go unpaid. Computer systems were crashed and critical data destroyed. The previous leadership left a legacy of poor decisions, long-term contracts and a building mortgage that the public was not informed of. Wake up young gatekeepers and never let this happen again! By restoring this Crown Jewel, you will ensure the future success of this entire community. Study your local history. Our community has produced great leaders like Bayard Rustin, who went beyond our borders and helped change the consciousness of a nation. You are your brother's keeper. Make the choice to expect your responsibility.



Habitat Settlement

On December 20, 2005 Habitat for Humanity of Chester County (HfHCC) went to settlement on 9 parcels of land located in the East End. This acquisition has been nearly 3 years in the making with the exceptional cooperation of the M.H. Davis Estate Oil Co. There had some delays along the way on both sides, but they eventually got resolved to allow the settlement to finally occur.”



A view of the newly acquired Habitat property from Worthington Street.

The lot locations are between Bolmar, Barnard, Poplar and Worthington Streets in the east end of the Borough of West Chester. “HfHCC now plans to begin formal planning and zoning consideration with the Borough of West Chester to bring this project to the next step which is

the construction phase. God willing, that phase will start as early as this summer; but we know that sometimes these things can have a life of their own so we will go when given the all clear by the officials,” stated Chip Huston.

HfHCC already has verbally, full or partial sponsorship commitments for the first 6 homes from 2 local businesses and 3 churches and a \$65,000 grant from the Chester County Department of Community Development for infrastructure improvements. Chip



Picture of home under construction at 427 East Barnard

Huston said, “We are very much looking forward to continuing to construct affordable housing in the Borough to go along with our home already under construction on Barnard Street.” The home at Barnard Street is projected to be completed around the end of

spring 2006.

Statistics show more than 3,529 people live in poverty in Chester County and need a simple, decent, affordable place to live. Since 1988, Habitat volunteers have built 79 homes and refurbished an additional seven properties in Coatesville, Phoenixville and West Chester. HfHCC’s primary objective is to eliminate poverty housing in Chester County by building low income, owner-occupied housing which leads to more stable neighborhoods.

A Message from Good Works



Jim Ford, the Director for Good Works, Inc would like to inform residents that the services of Good Works are available for homeowners

within the East End who meet certain income requirements. During a cold winter, the improvements to warmth and comfort of a home could go a long way in helping you or a loved one. A quick phone call may be all that is needed to make this possible.

Good Works is a Christian nonprofit organization which exists to improve the living conditions for low-income families in Chester County, PA. They transform substandard houses into warmer, safer, and drier homes; and despair into hope. Their services are offered to homeowners at no cost and volunteers do most of the repairs.

Good Works’ goal is to see the inhabitants of these homes rise above their level of poverty and experience a richness through being cared for and knowing that their circumstances matter to their community. They believe that everyone benefits when people from different races, cultures, and backgrounds join together in a common purpose.

Should you or a loved one need the services of Good Works, please contact their office at 610-383-6311. More information about Good Works can be found online by visiting www.goodworksinc.org.



OUT AND ABOUT THE EAST END NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY NEWS:

Relationship Workshop for Youth

Dr Judith Thomas will be facilitating a male/female relationship workshop for youth ages 6-18.

This event will be held at the Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center on Jan 21, 2006 from 12pm to 2pm



Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Charles A Melton Arts & Education Center
501 East Miner St
West Chester, Pa 19382

Sponsored by - Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 6:30pm.



The meeting will take place at the EENA office: 125 South Penn Street, West Chester, PA

Ramona Lang, Finance Chairman

A Reminder from the Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center

The Melton Center Board meets every 3rd Monday at 7pm at the Center. These meetings are open to the public. This is a great place for you to share ideas and to help guide the direction of the organization that forms the center of our community.



United Way of Chester County
In partnership with the Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of service and local youth and health service providers

PRESENTS:

STRENGTHENING YOUTH THROUGH AMERICA'S PROMISE

Special Invitation:

Middle and High School Students

DATE: January 16, 2005

TIME: Registration—9:30am

PROGRAM: 10am to 12noon

Event Location:

Charles A. Melton Community Center
501 E. Miner Street
West Chester, PA 19382

Registration:

Limited seating available!
Call—610 692 9400 x112

Admission:

One photo of your family or loved ones



Important Dates in the Borough

December 20	Planning Commission Meeting	7:00 pm	Borough Hall
December 20	Borough Council Work Session	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
December 21	Borough Council Meeting	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
January 2	Zoning Hearing Board	5:30 pm	Borough Hall
January 5	HARB	7:00 pm	Borough Hall
January 16	Diversity Day	9:30 am	Melton Center
January 17	Borough Council Work Session	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
January 18	Borough Council Meeting	7:00 pm	Council Chamber
January 21	Relationship Workshop	Noon	Melton Center
January 24	Planning Commission Work Session	7:00 pm	Borough Hall
January 31	Planning Commission Meeting	7:00 pm	Borough Hall