



Neighborhood Pride!

The East End Voice

www.eastendwc.org

East End
Neighborhood
Association
Newsletter

April 2006

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EENA President Shirley Porter with a check for \$400,000 for the East End Elm Street efforts. This check was presented by Deputy Secretary of DCED Ken Klothen at a February 16th event held at the Melton Center

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The East End Neighborhood Association's Officers

Shirley Porter	President
Steve Graves	Vice 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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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.



DCED Presents Additional Elm Street Funding

On February 16, 2006 Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Ken Klothen presented a check for \$400,000 to the West Chester Business Improvement District for the Elm Street efforts on the East End of West Chester. Accepting the check were Shirley Porter, president of EENA, Mayor Dick Yoder, members of Borough Council, Business Improvement District Board Members and EENA Board Members. The event took place at the Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center. Mr. Klothen was present on behalf of Governor Rendell.



Councilman Bond, Mayor Yoder and EENA President Shirley Porter accept a check for \$400,000 from Deputy Secretary of DCED Ken Klothen

"With these funds, we will help West Chester move forward with plans to make improvement in the East End neighborhood. Such investments breathe new life into our downtown corridors, while building valuable community pride," said Klothen.

The \$400,000 represented funding for years 2,3 and 4 of the Elm Street Operations and also \$250,000 for Community Reinvestment funding. Previously, DCED had presented \$75,000 in funding for the Elm Street efforts in West Chester.

"The East End population looks forward to receiving funds to begin the physical revitalization of our neighborhood. We will work closely with the Borough of West Chester, Habitat for Humanity and other groups that are endeavoring to make our community a better place to live. We will continue to need every citizen's help to keep the program going and growing. This is just the beginning," said Shirley Porter, President of the East End Neighborhood Association.

Amongst those in attendance were representatives and officials from the West Chester community, including Rene Dolly (on behalf of Chester County Commissioner, Andy Dinniman), Borough Council Members - Carolyn Committa, Holly Brown, Chuck Christy, Paul Fitzpatrick and Stephen Bond. Bob Holliday from the United Way of Chester County, Beth Briglia from the Chester County Community Foundation, Tom McIntyre and Pat Bokovitz from Chester County Dept of Community and Economic Development and former borough council president, Bill Scott.

A Message from the President: Time to Act

We, of the East End Neighborhood Association, have been working to improve our neighborhood in every way we can. However, there has been only a small core of people doing the work.. \$250,000 has been awarded to us by the state to help us rehabilitate homes (inside and out), sidewalks, lighting and yards.



Shirley Porter, President of EENA

Now, everyone must act to fill out applications for areas that need fixing. **WE CANNOT DO THE APPLICATION FOR YOU!** We do not know what you want fixed. We can help you fill out your application and aid in getting your needs and ideas across. But, **YOU MUST FILL OUT THE APPLICATION AND SUBMIT IT.** Please contact an EENA member or Geoff Brace, Elm Street Manager, for further information at 610-696-2110.

We also need your help with the Neighborhood Watch. No, you do not have to patrol at night, but you should report anything or anyone suspicious in your area. We also ask that porch and rear lights be put on in the evening to keep the neighborhood better lit while children travel from the Melton Center to home. Neighbors need your eyes to help catch the vandals who mar cars, slash tires or destroy property.

Last, but not least, we need your participation in the East End Neighborhood Association. We need your ideas, your activity and your creativity. Membership is only \$10.00 per year. The best bargain in town!!

Shirley Porter, President

East End Online

The East End Neighborhood Association has a website with updated material, events information, history of the neighborhood and a virtual tour. Visit www.eastendwc.org to learn what is going on in your neighborhood.



West Chester: A Distinct Town

The National Trust for Historic Preservation named West Chester, Pennsylvania, one of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations for 2006. It is the only other community in Pennsylvania to ever receive the national honor. The annual list promotes heritage tourism by recognizing those communities that are outstanding in their historic preservation practices and offering visitors an excellent small town experience.



"West Chester is a wonderful historic destination that has achieved a standard many communities strive to emulate," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "West Chester is a real, living, dynamic town that appreciates and capitalizes on its rich past, while keeping a watchful eye on the future."



On March 22nd, leaders from all parts of the borough met at the Chester County Historical Society for a reception to celebrate the reward. From EENA, Shirley Porter, Marvin Porter, Ramona Lang and Doris Bond all attended. The reception was a great opportunity to hear from County Commissioner Carol Aichele, Mayor Yoder and leaders from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

So what does all of this mean? Well, it tells us what we have known all along: West Chester is a great place to be and as a part of the community, the East End's resurgence will make our community even more special.

COMING SOON TO THE THE CHARLES A. MELTON ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CENTER FUNTASTIC SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

- Fun Arts (Fine Arts Workshop)
Kids ages 12 & up
- Diane Matthews
Dance Enrichment Program
- New this Summer:
Theater Arts Workshop



MORE INFO. IN NEXT NEWSLETTER. Information free. Call Marv Porter, 610) 692-8071.

Housing Information Session



EENA and the Housing Partnership of Chester County will be hosting a housing information session on Tuesday, May 9th, at the Melton Center. The session will start at 7 PM and include information about Housing Partnership's existing housing programs and programs that they will be offering as part of the Elm Street program. EENA

will also share information about the Façade and Home Improvement Programs that it will offer as part of the Elm Street program.

If you are a homeowner or want to become a homeowner, this session could be for you. Housing Partnership offers a homebuyer program as well as a variety of programs to help moderate income families and seniors to improve their homes. For more information, speak to Doris Bond or call the EENA office at 610-696-2110.

You can now advertise in the East End Voice

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

Circulation: Minimum of 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.



Don't Borrow Trouble: It's Your Home!

"We've all seen the aggressive marketing campaigns for refinance and home equity loans. They may seem tempting but they may not be the best financing alternative — they could even risk a family's financial health, a home's equity and the stability of a neighborhood. Knowledge is protection — learning about refinancing and the mortgage process puts the power to protect both home and family in the homeowner's hands." Don't Borrow Trouble Website



Here are some tips from the Don't Borrow Trouble Website:

- Say NO to "easy money." Borrowers should beware if someone claims "credit problems won't affect the interest rate." If a solicitation for a loan sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Get it in writing!
- Shop around. Borrowers should talk to several lenders to find the best loan for which they qualify. A loan product or lending practice may not seem predatory until compared with a similar loan product offered by other lenders.
- Understand the loan terms. Borrowers should compare loan terms from different lenders.
- Find out about prepayment penalties. Borrowers should know if the loan offered to them has a prepayment penalty.
- Make sure documents are correct. Be cautious of someone who offers to falsify a borrower's income information to qualify for a loan.
- Make sure documents are complete. A borrower should not sign documents that have incorrect dates or blank fields.
- Ask about additional fees. Borrowers should question any items they didn't ask for. Borrowers should also beware if they are told that single premium credit insurance is required get a loan.
- Understand the total package. Ask for written estimates that include all points and fees. Delay the closing until all terms of the loan are clearly understood.
- Work with credit counselors. Talk to a community-based consumer credit counseling agency or housing counselor BEFORE signing the loan documents. If you're not sure, don't sign.
- Protect home equity. If borrowers are taking equity out of their property, they should take out the minimum amount needed. The equity in a home is a source of wealth, which builds up slowly over time.

If you or a loved one has fallen victim to loans that are threatening your ability to own a home, call the Don't Borrow Trouble Helpline and speak to one of the people who can help you. **The number for Chester County is 1-888-275-8843.**

Volunteer of the Month Ms. Vandella Williams

Children of the community are once again storming the doors of the Charles A. Melton Center. They come to the after school program for help with their homework, then off to the gym to play basketball, watch a game, or just talk with one another. The first face they see when they enter the Center is that of Ms. Van, as they so lovingly call her. Every last child that enters the Center knows who Ms. Van is and if you do not—it is guaranteed that they have heard about her from their friends or acquaintances. What have they heard? They have heard that she is a caretaker of the Center and a caregiver to the children. Ms. Vandella Williams has been associated with the Center since she was young—growing up in the Center in the Mr. Melton days. She continued her love for the Center when she became a mother volunteering and working in the Center, and was a member of the "We Are Family" group which worked closely with the Center sponsoring many functions and programs for the children on behalf of the Center. She recently retired from Wyeth Laboratories, and since her retirement has become a multi-dimensional volunteer—in other words she does it all. You can find Ms. Van everyday at the Center from 10am-6pm. The first action she took on behalf of the Center was to clean the center from top to bottom. The building was immaculate. I remember at an EENA meeting, we all took time to personally thank her for such a self-sacrificing job. She also coordinates community service people who are sent to the Center.



"Miss Van," as the kids call her, with a group of children after school one afternoon at the Melton Center.

In this day and time, it is sometimes hard to get through to our children about appropriate behavior. As a caregiver, Ms. Van makes sure that every child follows the rules of the Center. She is instilling in them to respect the Center facility and property, as well as themselves, adults and their peers. She patiently talks with those who get in trouble, with parents of those children and many times the end result is a turn around in the child's behavior and attitude. Because she is a good listener and talks to them about good choices vs. bad choices and the results of good choices vs. bad choices, many of these children come back and thank her for taking the time to listen to them and talk them through a problem.

Ms. Vandella Williams is also a EENA member who serves on the Safe Green & Clean and the Design Committees. She is also a EENA board member.

Ms. Vandella Williams is a community asset that is hard to find. She is the true meaning of what it means to be a volunteer. Her level of service far exceeds what you would expect in a volunteer and she enjoys every minute of it. She is a loving mother and grandmother. She will always be a committed volunteer to the Center and this community.

We thank Ms. Vandella Williams for sharing her talents and wisdom when it comes to our children and appreciate her humbleness in what she does despite those tough days - it all evens out in the end.

We thank Ms. Vandella Williams for sharing her talents and wisdom when it comes to our children and appreciate her humbleness in what she does despite those tough days - it all evens out in the end.



Clean up Dates Set

There are two clean up dates that will be taking place on the East End this year.

The first clean up day will be for Goose Creek on April 22nd at 9 AM. We will meet with other volunteers at the Public Works Building (corner of Matlack and Lacy Streets), pick up tools and supplies and then spread out to clean up the creek which is in need of a lot of work. This is part of an Earth Day activity by the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association.



The second clean up day will be the annual East End Neighborhood Clean Up held on May 27th. We will meet at the office at 125 South Penn Street at 9 AM to distribute garbage bags and to point out where the trash collection points will be. Last year, the clean up produced two large piles of trash after more than a dozen neighbors came out to clean up the neighborhood.

If you have any questions about these days, contact Steve Graves or call the EENA office (610-696-2110).

East End Town Tour

The East End is a treasure of a neighborhood. We know that, but now we get to show off the East End to the rest of Chester County. Every year, the Chester County Department of Parks and Recreation sponsors a series of Town Tours and Village Walks. Each season begins in West Chester. This year, the East End has been chosen as the neighborhood for West Chester. The Town Tours of the East End will be given on June 1st, 2006. They will start at 6 PM from the open lawn of the Melton Center.



Did you know that 300 East Miner Street used to be a hotel? Learn about this and more at the Town Tour on June

Learn how the East End provided the labor that powered the industry that helped drive West Chester. Discover the world-renown artists that once lived here. Witness a neighborhood in dynamic change. Tour themes will include Miss Penny's East End, Arts and Artists, Railroads and Industries, Tidbits and Tall Tales and so much more.

Tours are free and refreshments are provided after the tour, but you must pre-register. Call 610-918-7348 to register or for more information.

Flower Day

On May 20th from 10 AM until noon, EENA and Community Gardens of Chester County will be hosting what will hopefully become the Annual East End Flower Day. Gardening experts will be at the Melton Center giving free demonstrations on how to plant different flowers and plants. They will also be selling flowers and plants at greatly reduced prices.



Coming out to learn is free, and planting flowers to add color to your home is affordable. In the end, the beauty you can add to your home and community is priceless!

If you would like to help with the set up of this day, talk to Steve Graves or call the EENA office (610-696-2110).

Annual Meeting

The East End Neighborhood Association will hold its Annual Meeting Thursday June 29th at 7 PM at the Melton Center. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is for the Board of Directors to report back to the members about progress over the last year, elect board members and officers, approve the next year's budget and to vote on changes to the bylaws.



The entire community is invited to attend, but only paid members of EENA may vote. If you are unsure about being a paid member of EENA or would like to become a member, please call EENA President Shirley Porter at 610-692-8071.



OUT AND ABOUT THE EAST END NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY NEWS:

Important Dates in the Borough

4/18	Borough Council Worksession	7 PM	Borough Hall
4/19	Borough Council Meeting	7 PM	Borough Hall
4/25	Planning Commission Meeting	7 PM	Borough Hall
5/7	May Day Festival of the Arts	11 AM	Everhart Park
5/8	Public Works Meeting	5:30 PM	Borough Hall
	Parks and Recreation Meeting	6:30 PM	
	Parking Committee	7:30 PM	
5/9	Public Safety Meeting	5:30 PM	Borough Hall
	Finance Meeting	6:30 PM	
	PIZBID Meet	7:30 PM	
5/16	Borough Council Worksession	7 PM	Borough Hall
5/17	Borough Council Meeting	7 PM	Borough Hall
5/30	Planning Commission Meeting	7 PM	Borough Hall
6/1	Swingin Summer Tuesday	6:30 PM	Gay Street
6/2	Gallery Walk	5 PM	Downtown Art Galleries
6/17	Twilight Bike Race	1 PM	Downtown

EENA Dates/Meetings

All meetings held at 125 S. Penn Street unless otherwise noted

4/27	7 PM	Board of Directors
5/2	7 PM	Neighbors and Economy
5/4	7 PM	EENA Membership Meeting
5/11	7 PM	Design
5/16	7 PM	Safe, Clean and Green
5/23	7 PM	Image and Identity
5/25	7 PM	Board of Directors
6/29	7PM	Annual Meeting

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS

Charles A. Melton Arts & Education Center

Looking for local groups to be part of summer music festivals – a series of 6 concerts

-Jazz, Gospel, String Ensemble, Country Western, Hip Hop, Oldies Night (Motown Night), Children's Night- Youth Explosion, Rhythm & Blues

To find out more information and/or if interested contact: Marv Porter @ 610-692-8071



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.

SCIENCE SATURDAYS

10-11:30am

Sponsored by the Melton Center, EENA

Under the auspices of the Neighborhood Children's Choir

Students ages 8-12

Second Session (TBA)

Hands-On Lessons All materials will be provided.

Just bring your imagination and enthusiasm to learn.

Dates to Remember

June 29th— EENA Annual Meeting

July 8th—EENA Annual Car Wash. Looking for vendors

Sept 16th—EENA Community Festival. Looking for vendors and volunteers.