



Neighborhood Pride!

# The East End Voice

East End  
Neighborhood  
Association  
Newsletter

Volume 1  
Issue 10

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**Opinions expressed in the East End Voice do not necessarily reflect the views of EENA or its members. They are entirely the view and opinion of the author.**

### The East End Neighborhood Association's Officers

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Marvin Porter  | President      |
| Steven 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.

|                |                    |                             |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Earlene Brown  | Editor in Chief    | preciouspromises8@yahoo.com |
| Barbara Bond   | Editor             | Bjbond413@yahoo.com         |
| Carrie Brisbon | EENA Secretary     |                             |
| Geoff Brace    | Elm Street Manager | gbrace@wcbid.com            |



Mayor Yoder presenting the keys to the borough at the East End Neighborhood Association's Annual Retreat which was held on September 17, 2005.

Recipients were Steve Graves, Steve Bond, Sue Bond, and Marv & Shirley Porter.

### 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.



## EENA Holds Annual Retreat

The East End Neighborhood Association held its annual retreat on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the Good Will Fire Company. The retreat was attended by EENA members, area residents, local agency representatives, elected officials, a few guests from out of town and representatives from other neighborhood associations.

To start the meeting, Marvin Porter, President of EENA, told a story of how a bell cannot be un-rung and asked the group's permission to ring the bell that would signify the beginning of the retreat. After a few words of welcome, Mayor Dick Yoder presented Steve Graves, Doris Bond, Steve Bond and Marv and Shirley Porter with keys to the borough for their collective work within the community. Also, Clifford DeBaptiste presented to Marvin Porter the plaque for the West Chester Rotary Club's "Man of the Year Award." Mr. Porter was awarded this distinction before the retreat, but the plaque was not available until that time. Mr. DeBaptiste also presented both the Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center and the East End Neighborhood Association with checks to continue and enhance current programming efforts.

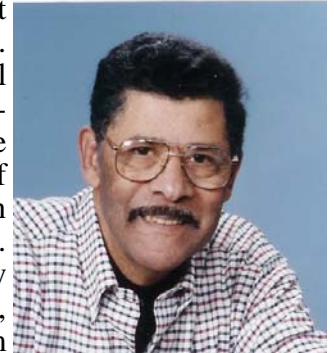
After awards and presentations were made, Geoff Brace presented the Five Year Elm Street Plan that was prepared by the Elm Street Planning Committee. Steve Bond, Steve Graves, Vandella Williams, Marvin and Shirley Porter and Ramona Lang all served on this committee. The plan included goals and objectives surrounding the East End Neighborhood Association's community development efforts, as well as plans for streetscape enhancements and façade improvement grants. The plan was approved without opposition.

EENA was given a great opportunity before lunch when Elizabeth Gooman, the lead facilitator for the Chester County Leadership Connect, a non-profit training institute co-sponsored by The United Way of Chester County and West Chester University, provided training for EENA members. The members had the opportunity to learn what a board of directors is, what it does, what board members do and how boards make policy. These questions provided a good amount of discussion and interaction, encouraging members to think about how the board of directors will operate.

After a wonderful potluck lunch, complete with meatball sandwiches, salads and deserts, the Porters issued a challenge. If EENA members could manage to raise \$25,000 of their own money, the Porters would match that amount for the purpose of acquiring property so that values would not skyrocket. EENA members took the opportunity to report committee goals and efforts to date. After hearing the reports and goals from the committees, participants took some time to brainstorm and prioritize ideas that have been suggested throughout the year.

## Message from the President

On September 17, 2005, Marv and Shirley Porter offered the following "Challenge" to the members of the East End Neighborhood Association and to the citizens of West Chester, PA at our Annual Retreat. Mr. Porter stated that they will match up to \$25,000 of investment pledges that are raised for the purpose of purchasing houses within our East End neighborhood. The investment fund money will be used to buy houses,



rehab them and resell them to families that can become an asset to our neighborhood. This is not a charitable donation, it is an investment with an expectation of a return. Basic pledges are expected to be a minimum of \$1,000 and can be paid over the course of one year. Our plan is simple: to have cash reserves to purchase properties as soon as they come on the market and find families that want to buy a house in our neighborhood.

Marv and Shirley feel strongly that this is **our** watch, not our parents', not our children's, but **ours**. On the East End, we are developing a shared vision and a shared commitment. We must give new meaning to the term **UNITY**. Marv and Shirley have given of their trust and their treasure to help people. They have committed; now it's up to us. They ask that everyone who reads this message to support their challenge and send in their pledge of financial support – today.

For more details, please call Marv Porter at (610) 692-8071.

As God as our witness

*Marv & Shirley Porter*

## 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.



## Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center Comcast Cares Designee

On October 1, 2005 Comcast held its annual Comcast Cares Day. As part of a corporate wide effort to reach out and connect with area communities, Comcast sends workers out to volunteer at local parks, community centers and area non-profits. The Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center was fortunate to be one of the organizations to be identified as one of the Comcast Cares Day sites.



Volunteers tending the flower gardens

“It was a wonderful and fantastic day. So many volunteers came out to help. The Center really needed the improvements and we’re so thankful for the volunteers’ kindness. What a great way to show our new beginning!” said Doris A. Bond, co-chair of the Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center.

Over 100 volunteers arrived at the Melton Center to lend a hand at fixing up the building on the inside and the outside.



Volunteers inside painting the stairway

The hallway to the staircase and by the main entrance also received a new coat of paint. As a parting gift, the volunteers left some new basketballs for the children to use in the gym.

The effort was organized by Steve Bond who worked with Lori Shultz at Comcast to make this day happen. The East End Neighborhood Association provided donuts and coffee to volunteers and worked side by side to make the efforts happen.

## Come Meet the Candidates

On Tuesday, October 25th at 6pm, the East End Neighborhood Association and the Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center will host a Meet the Candidates Night. The goal is to provide both the mayoral and borough council candidates an opportunity for dialogue with the voting residents from all over West Chester.

Each candidate is invited to speak on issues of importance to them and to the citizens of West Chester. A moderator will handle questions from the floor.

It is important for voters to get out and learn about the people who want to represent them in local government. EENA and the Melton Center are proud to serve the important civic function of serving as a forum to help educate voters.



Do not forget to come out and vote on November 8th. You can vote between 7 AM and 8 PM. This year, the county judicial office, county row offices, West Chester mayor and borough council seats in the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th wards will all be decided. To learn more about your polling locations, visit <http://dsf.chesco.org/election/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=609094#W> and scroll to the bottom of the webpage.

## Visit the East End Online!

That’s right. The East End Neighborhood Association is going online. The website comes complete with a virtual tour, an article about the history of the African American community in West Chester written by Penny Washington, links to other area agencies, newsletters, news articles and a calendar of events. This website is full of wonderful pictures that help highlight how great the East End is and also timely news pieces that inform the community of EENA’s efforts.

The website was designed by Triton Web Studios in West Chester at a greatly reduced rate. EENA thanks Triton for their kind contributions and for the time put into this wonderful website.

Visit [www.eastendwc.org](http://www.eastendwc.org) to see the website and stay up to date on all the happenings on the East End. Come back and visit often!



## Elm Street 5 Year Plan Finalized

At the September 17<sup>th</sup> retreat, the East End Neighborhood Association unanimously approved the Five Year Elm Street Plan. The Five Year Plan includes a variety of goals and objectives that will allow the East End Neighborhood Association to articulate its vision and activities over the next five years. This plan will be submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development at the end of October in order to receive additional funding for the Elm Street office and for community improvement projects. A total of \$300,000 will be requested for 2005-2006.



The plan breaks down into five categories with goals and objectives that are related to the category. Some of the goals include improving sidewalks along Poplar, Matlack, and Barnard streets, providing training to individuals to improve their leadership skills and the East End Neighborhood Association, making home facade improvement grants available to homeowners, connecting residents with community resources that will assist or improve lives in the neighborhood and even trying to remedy problems of blight and rundown buildings.

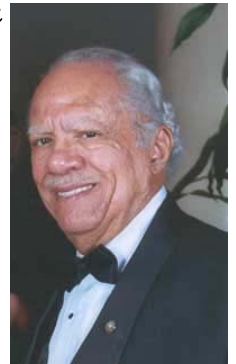
This plan will require a great deal of hard work and constant effort. Ramona Lang, Steve Bond, Steve Graves, Marv Porter, Shirley Porter and Vandella Williams all served on the Elm Street Committee. This committee met several times to undertake the planning and will continue to meet in order to monitor the overall success of the Elm Street Plan.

With funding from the state, area business and foundations and the leadership of EENA members, the Elm Street Project will allow residents in the East End to have an improved quality of life and a better neighborhood.

## A MOST SINCERE



*Our sincerest "thank you" to Dr. Clifford, to Lillian and Elizabeth DeBaptiste for their very generous donation to the East End Neighborhood Association!!!*



*Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste, FD*



Our Goal Our Aim is to provide  
The most *spiritual, meaningful, memorable and uplifting*  
Service for every family we serve.  
After all... it's all about you

601 E. Miner Street  
West Chester PA 19382  
Phone: 610-696-4812  
Fax: 610-429-1422

60-62 Prospect Ave  
Bryn Mawr PA 19010  
Phone: 610-525-4336  
Fax: 610-429-1422

Lillian DeBaptiste,  
FD, Supervisor

Inez DeBaptiste,  
FD, *Deceased*

Dr. Clifford DeBaptiste,  
FD, Supervisor



**PRESS RELEASE  
FROM THE CHARLES A. MELTON ARTS AND  
EDUCATION CENTER**

Doris A. Bond, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center in West Chester, formally announced the re-organization of the Center Board and staff.

“With the recent departure of the Center’s former executive Director, Dr. Lamont McKim, the Board has assumed a greater role in the Center’s day-to-day operations” Bond advised. “We’ve taken the conclusion of the summer camp program as an opportunity to re-assess the status of the financial, operational, and programming areas. The condition of the building and grounds will also be re-evaluated. As a non-profit organization, we must operate within the limits of the resources available to us and we should be extremely prudent in our utilization of those resources. Therefore, most of the staff was dismissed. This was an unfortunate, but necessary action.” Doris A. Bond and Steven P. Graves will assume the position of interim directors.



Ms. Bond explained that the Board has organized committees comprised of Center member volunteers who are chaired by Board members, who will review and re-organize the Bylaws, Financials, Operating Budget, Programming, and the Physical Plant. An independent auditor has also been retained to complete all outstanding audits.

“The Center’s re-organization has charged our membership with a renewed passion to come together as volunteers to help the Melton Center better serve the children and families of our community,” said Ms. Bond. “Our intent is to continue planning for implementation of programs for the fall, such as the After-School Enrichment Program.”

The Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center, formerly known as the West Chester Community Center, has a rich history in the borough of West Chester. It was organized in 1919 to provide recreational, civic, and educational support services for the West Chester Community. The original building was constructed in 1934 to provide a gymnasium, auditorium, classrooms, and kitchen facilities. The Center provided services for the community regardless of race, color, or religious affiliation, unlike community facilities, such as the YMCA which were segregated at that time. The Center’s expanded its facility and the four-acre site served as a valued central hub for communal, recreational, and educational support activities for the children and families of West Chester, as it will continue to do in the future.

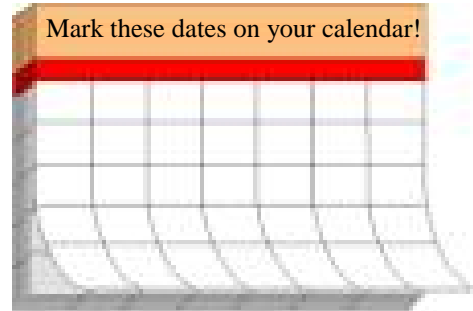
**Important Date!**

On October 18th at 7 PM at Borough Hall, Borough Council will consider a proposal to endorse the EENA Elm Street Plan. Please attend the Borough Council Work Session to express your opinions. It is important to demonstrate to Borough Council that there is broad based support from the community.

**Community Calendar**

|       |                              |                       |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10/18 | Borough Council Work-session | 7pm— Borough Hall     |
| 10/19 | Borough Council Meeting      | 7pm— Borough Hall     |
| 10/25 | Planning Commission          | 7pm—Borough Hall      |
| 10/27 | Halloween Parade             | 7pm—Gay/Market Street |
| 11/3  | HARB                         | 7pm— Borough Hall     |
| 11/7  | Public Works Committee       | 5:30pm— Borough Hall  |
| 11/7  | Parks and Recreation         | 6:30pm—Borough Hall   |
| 11/7  | Parking Committee            | 7:30pm—Borough Hall   |
| 11/8  | Finance Committee            | 5:30pm—Borough Hall   |
| 11/8  | Public Safety Committee      | 6:30pm—Borough Hall   |
| 11/8  | PZBID Committee              | 7:30pm—Borough Hall   |

Mark these dates on your calendar!





## OUT AND ABOUT THE EAST END NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY NEWS:

### Community Yard Sale

October 22, 2005



509 East Barmard St.

For more information: 610-696-3751

### AWARD LUNCHEON



**5th Annual  
Dr. Robert Hanna  
Community Appreciation Award Luncheon  
October 15, 2005  
Charles A. Melton Arts & Education  
Center  
12—3pm**

**Sponsored by:  
Human Relations Council of  
Greater West Chester**

*Special Guests:  
Mary Francis Thomas & Zaida Casals*

### 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.

**The Children's Neighborhood Choir (In the Pursuit of Excellence)  
Will be singing at the  
Wesminster Presbyterian  
Church**

**October 22, 2005**

**Address: 10 W Pleasant Grove Road  
West Chester, PA 19382**



**Ward 2E needs  
a Democratic  
Committee Per-  
son. Contact  
Marv Porter at  
610-692-8071**