



Neighborhood Pride!

The East End Voice

East End
Neighborhood
Association
Newsletter

Volume 1
Issue 9

INSIDE:

From the Desk of the Editor	Page 2	Earlene Brown
Message from the President	Page 2	Marv Porter, President
Commentary	Page 3	Bashir/Bond
Membership Drive	Page 3	Ramona Lang
Elm Street Update	Page 5	Geoff Brace
EENA Annual Retreat Agenda	Page 6	Marv Porter

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

East Barnard Street on a warm summer day!

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.



From the Desk of the Editor

Earlene Brown

COMMUNITY NEWS

I would like to share some pictures of our children enjoying dance class. We are actively looking to put in place activities that will stimulate our children's social, emotional and physical well-being. We need volunteers to make it all work! Don't forget the EENA Retreat and call the Melton Center to find out where your talents can be used



MARVIN & SHIRLEY PORTER TO BE HONORED



Due to Mr. & Mrs. Porter's tireless leadership efforts to make EENA a success, along with the members at-large, The Board of Directors of the Chester County Community Foundation will be presenting them with the "Thanks for Caring Award" on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2005 at their 11th annual meeting. The meeting will be from 5-6:30pm at the West Chester

University's Philips Memorial Building-Emilie K. Asplundh Hall.

Also, Mr. Porter will be honored on September 8, 2005 by the Rotary Club presenting him with the "Man of the Year" award. **CONGRATULATIONS!** from the members of EENA and a community that is being blessed by the caring efforts of Marv and Shirley Porter.



Habitat Project Under Way

Passing by 427 East Barnard Street, you might notice some changes. The house that once stood there is no

longer there. It has been demolished and Habitat for Humanity is in the process of constructing a new house. Take a walk some afternoon and see the remarkable progress that is taking place in the middle of our neighborhood.



Message from the President

Marv Porter

The Renaissance of the East End

The Renaissance: The "Rebirth" of its people. Change is happening.



What you're about to see is the leading edge of an "evolution". The evolutionary change is from apathy and disengagement to a personal and civic consciousness about our community. It is about beginning new initiatives that involve saving our Community Center, ensuring that our children have the very best all-around education that we can give them, and preserving our homes and community from encroaching gentrification, so that current residents can continue to live here.

Our "Renaissance" means engineering our own destiny and that of our children. As it has been said before, the train is rolling, we want you on board.

If not, we will roll anyway.

Marv Porter

8/15/05

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.



Commentary

Submitted by Steve Bond

Written by: Amir Bashir (Ron Bond)

Dear Family and Friends of West Chester,

I am writing from my home in Germany and reflecting on the senseless and irrational acts of violence that is reaching into the lives of families around the world; the trauma and shock that it lives in its after affects. I woke up to the news of the bombings in London on July 7, 2005 and then later that night to get the news of the tragic loss of Crystal Thompson at my mother's home on Barnard Street was a double shock. Thoughts began to flood my mind of the daily news of terrorist acts that seem to numb our psyche to the pain and trauma of the victims and families touched by these acts. The children, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and friends left behind to wonder why, but not until the tragedy visits your home do you begin to sympathize with the pain that others experience everyday somewhere on our planet. Violence does not discriminate it is equally destructive of all human beings regardless of race, religion, color, gender, class, nationality, or age.

The history of violence begins with the first recorded story of domestic violence when Cain killed his brother Abel, and it seems that today violence has come to be accepted as a means to resolve conflict. It's on television, radio, internet, movies, and video games. It's everywhere, but talk to the victims and families that are left in the aftermath. This is no game. This is no sport. It is a serious and painful experience. It was hoped that World War I and World War II would bring an era of peace but unfortunately it only led to more sophisticated forms of killing. Unsophisticated minds have found ways of terrorizing our communities with very unsophisticated weapons in the hands of individuals. The 11th of September 2001 shook America and the world. Last year West Chester was in the news when the war in Iraq touched the community with the tragic death of young Nick Berg. We would like to find closure to these acts that touch our lives but some will never find closure.

It is times like these when faith, hope, or love can help begin the process of healing our wounded hearts. There are community groups and professionals that can help and the love and support of family and friends. There are many words of wisdom passed down through the ages and from many religious and cultural traditions that can give us food for thought and comfort for our aching hearts. The following are a few drops from the ocean of wisdom for those that have a thirst:

Isaiah 66:13 As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."



Al-Qur'an 7.29 Say: "My Lord hath commanded justice; and that ye set your whole selves (to Him) at every time and place of prayer, and call upon Him, making your devotion sincere as in His sight: such as He created you in the beginning, so shall ye return."

Baha'i Writings — "O ye lovers of God! In this, the cycle of Almighty God, violence and force, constraint and oppression, are one and all condemned."

O Lord my God! O Thou Helper of the feeble, and Deliverer of the helpless who turn unto Thee.

Verily Thou art the Merciful, the All-Glorious, the Kind, the Compassionate.

O Lord! These are the survivors of the martyrs, that company of blessed souls. They have sustained every tribulation and displayed patience in the face of grievous injustice.

O Lord! These souls have tasted bitter agony in this earthly life.

O Lord! Graciously reinforce them with a new spirit; illumine their eyes by enabling them to behold Thy wondrous evidences in the gloom of night; destine for them all good that abounds in Thy Kingdom of eternal mysteries.

Verily, Thou art the Bountiful, the Mighty, the Omnipotent, the Unconstrained. There is none other God but Thee, the God of love and tender mercy, the All-Glorious, the Ever-Forgiving.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Tell your neighbors, tell your friends



EENA is very appreciative of articles from persons who are interested in the welfare of our neighborhood and who take the time to share their thoughts and concerns. We are extending an invitation to everyone to take a membership with EENA.

Our basic membership dues is \$10 per family. Funds raised from dues will help cover copying costs for this newsletter, flyers, postage, help us fund community projects (i.e., Clean-up Day), activities for the children, and leadership training. Most importantly of all, membership gives you a voice in what goes on in EENA and helps us to stay in touch when important issues arise. Please take a few minutes to call the EENA president at 610-692-8071 to provide us with your contact information.

Together we can show how we care about our neighborhood. *Ramona Lang,*





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.

Family Unity Day **“REAL MEN” STAND UP!**

Date: Saturday September 10, 2005

Place: Charles A. Melton Arts and
Education Center
509 E Miner Street
West Chester, PA 19382
(610) 692-9290

Time: 1pm until 6pm (set up at 10am)

Purpose: An informal day of fellowship. We want to come together and feed the women and children of the community and create a renewed spirit of hope and support for our families. Come help us create a safe community through awareness, education and communication with our neighbors. We will offer prayer for a new beginning and a brighter future for our families.



We want YOU... to
come to the Family
Day!

All men come to work and serve. Bring your grills, your favorite dish or buy a snack or drink. Bring your lawn chairs and games.

All women and children bring your appetites only.

Co-Sponsored: By the Melton Center and the East End Neighborhood Association.

Contact: Steve Graves or Steve Bond, leave message, name and number at (610) 692-9290 (between 10am and 5pm)



Elm Street Plan Coming into Focus

Geoff Brace

The Elm Street Plan is starting to come into picture. The Elm Street Committee, consisting of Marv and Shirley Porter, Steve Bond, Steve Graves, Vandella Williams and Ramona Lang



all came together around the research and proposals that I was able to give to them and the result has been an ever clearer picture of the map the East End Neighborhood Association will follow in its quest for redevelopment. These remarkable volunteers should be commended for their willingness to take somewhat lofty and complex ideas and help break them down into concrete action plans. The East End should be proud to have leaders such as these fine folks.

The five-year plan is almost ready to be presented for formal consideration on September 17th at the East End Neighborhood Association's retreat. This is your time to come and make contributions to what is about to happen in your neighborhood and I encourage you to do so. After the plan is approved, I will begin the process of circulating information regarding a public hearing that will occur sometime in early to mid-October at the Melton Center to present to the public at large, the Elm Street Plan and ask for feedback and comments. That will be the last chance for you to hear what is going on. After that, the application will be sent to Harrisburg for approval.

My first four months in West Chester have been extremely rewarding and I'm looking forward to seeing this plan into existence. Please take a moment to thank Marv, Shirley, both Steves, Vandella and Ramona for their hard work. This plan could not have taken shape without them.

Community Calendar

9/1	HARB	7pm Municipal Bldg
9/6	Recreation Commission	6:30pm Municipal Bldg
9/12	Public Works	5:30pm Municipal Bldg
9/12	Parks and Recreation	6:30pm Municipal Bldg
9/12	Parking	7:30pm Municipal Bldg
9/13	Finance	5:30pm Municipal Bldg
9/13	Public Safety	6:30pm Municipal Bldg
9/13	PZBID	7:30pm Municipal Bldg
9/20	Borough Council Work Session	7pm Municipal Bldg
9/21	Borough Council Meeting	7pm Municipal Bldg
9/27	Planning Commission	7pm Municipal Bldg

Outreach Breakfast (free)

September 18, 2005

9am

Second United Presbyterian Church

114 South Walnut Street

West Chester, PA 19382

All are welcome!!



Bus Trip to: Reginald F. Lewis African American History Museum



Inner Harbor, Baltimore Maryland

Saturday November 19, 2005

Bus leaves 8:30 AM

Second Presbyterian Church

114 South Walnut Street

Returns 8:30 PM

Donation - Adults \$35 Youth - \$25



EAST END NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Second Annual Retreat Agenda "GIANT STEPS"

September 17, 2005

Goodwill Fire Company

Union & Bolmar Street

West Chester, PA 19382

8:00am - 9:00am: Breakfast & Greeting

9:00am:	Opening Prayer	Myrtle Paskings, Chaplain
	Welcome & Introduction of Guests.....	Marvin Porter, President
	Greetings.....	Richard Yoder, Mayor
	Presentations of Special Awards	

9:30am:	Brief review of Elm Street Project.....	Geoff Brace
	Presentation of completed Elm Street Plan and discussion	
	Vote to approve and send to Harrisburg.....	Marvin Porter, President
	Set up Public Forum Logistics at Borough Hall....	Geoff Brace

10:30am: Break

10:45am: United Way Training Session, Board Governance 101
Set dates for additional training sessions

12-12:45pm: Working Lunch & Panel Discussions:..... S. Bond, S. Graves, D. Bond, M. Paskings
Defining our current & future relationships with the Melton Center

1:00- Committee Chairman's Presentation on their "Giant Steps" Initiatives:
 Marvin & Shirley Porter's: **CHALLENGE**
 Finance: Ramona Lang
 Communication: No Chairman - working w/Melton Center Committee
 Newsletter: Earlene Brown, Editor-in-Chief
 Children's Choir: Earlene Brown, Vandella Williams
 Children Medic Alert Bracelets: Leon Thomas
 Cub Scouts: Major Colclasure
 Crisis Intervention Center Liaison: Missie Colclasure
 Black Business Telephone Directory: Marvin Porter

BRAINSTORMING - Potentially new projects
 Contacting new long range funding & sponsorship sources, children & adult
 card & game nights, twilight music fest and/or movies on "Center lawn", projects for sen-
 iors, expand neighborhood "clean-up" to spring and fall, neighborhood patrols from 6 to
 9pm, coordinate with police on neighborhood issues, planting of flower gardens/window
 boxes, neighborhood awards, i.e. - best kept house/yard, Welcome Wagon for Habitat
 families, cooking/photography, calendar dates for next year, new membership initiatives,
 open community store and teach business to youth, men's BBQ, paid advertising in newslet-
 ter, Melton Center page in newsletter, smoke detectors /Fire Company, Christmas luminar-
 ies/caroling with Children's choir.

Closing Prayer - Myrtle Paskings, Chaplain