

# Ward 9 Now — Our Ward, Our City

A community newsletter serving Ward 9 of Kingston, New York

Vol. 1, Issue 6

August 16, 2007

## INTRODUCTION

Well, today's ward meeting will be the last one at the Muddy Cup. Please thank our hosts by buying some of their specialty coffee drinks. From here out, we will be holding our meetings at the Coach House Players, 12 Augusta Street in Ward 9. The move reflects a desire by our neighbors to hold the meeting inside Ward 9. And what a place to have a meeting! The Coach House was built in 1894, housing the horses and carriages of the Coykendall Estate. During the 1950s, the site was bought by a community group looking to produce top-notch plays in the city. Since its inception, over 170 plays have been performed over 55 seasons at the Coach House. For more information about the Coach House and the Coach House Players, see: <http://home.hvc.rr.com/mkbennett/CHPhistory.html>

## VOLUNTEERS — STEP UP!

Our community group has created committees, and we need volunteers. The committees include: Traffic Calming; A Food Buying Club; and Community Gardens. If interested or have ideas for others, please sign up at the front of our Ward meetings, or write us for more information at: [kingstonnyward9@googlegroups.com](mailto:kingstonnyward9@googlegroups.com).

## THE NEXT WARD MEETING

The next Ward 9 meeting will be on Thursday, September 20 at 6 p.m. at a NEW LOCATION: the Coach House Players (12 Augusta Street). Our panel that evening after public comment at 7 p.m. will be led by Jennifer Schwartz titled "An Introduction to the Comprehensive Planning Process 101."

## MEETING FORMAT

5:30 p.m. – Resident sign-up. The maximum amount of residents to speak at each meeting is between 3 and 5 minutes. Please prepare your statement ahead of time. Public response (if necessary) is set to be 8 to 10 minutes.

6:00 p.m. – Past Business

6:15 p.m. – Public Comment/Public Response

7:15 p.m. – Special Guest Speaker/Panel

9:00 p.m. – Meeting adjourned

## PAST BUSINESS (from July 19, 2007)

*Our meeting began with residents' questions and comments.*

1. Paula Wisneski: A visit from a Ward 6 resident. (Great to have you and thanks for coming!). She spoke of a Voter's Registration Day she hosted on August 11 outside at the Stuyvesant Charter Apartments (Sheehan Court) at 202 Flatbush Avenue in Kingston.

2. Jennifer McKinley: Jennifer announced the beginnings of a buying club that will allow residents to 'co-op' and purchase wholesome, organic foods at a discounted rate. There is more on this on our Ward 9 website under the heading "Kingston Buying Club". If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Jennifer directly at: [Jennifer@jennifermckinley.com](mailto:Jennifer@jennifermckinley.com)

3. Arthur Zackiewicz: Arthur gave an update on the progress of the community garden 'modules' he, Janelle Boucher and Julie and Steve Noble are in the process of creating along with their Community Garden Committee. For more on this, visit our Ward

9 site and read under the heading "Kingston Community Garden and Land Trust in Kingston" thread. If you are interested in becoming involved, please email Arthur Zackiewicz at: [Arthur.Zackiewicz@fairchildpub.com](mailto:Arthur.Zackiewicz@fairchildpub.com)

4. Rebecca Martin: We had our first Traffic Safety and Calming Committee at Rebecca's home with guests Dennis Doyle, Bill Tobin and Jennifer Schwartz. The next meeting will be scheduled for September. If you'd like to become involved, please contact Rebecca Martin at: [rebbytunes@earthlink.net](mailto:rebbytunes@earthlink.net)

Our guest panel was entitled "How (and Why) to repair your Historic Bluestone Sidewalk," a panel discussion led by Lowell Thing. Also present were Yurij (George) Donskoj, Chairman of the Historic Landmarks Commission; Ed Pell, Bluestone Preservation Advocate and City Historian Ed Ford.

We are now posting PDF's of all of the handouts given by each panel on our Ward 9 website. Please look under the file page for your copy. It is listed there as "Bluestone PDF". Some interesting points that you may not have known:

1. Bluestone was formed 375 million years ago, found mainly in Ulster and some neighboring counties. It was quarried here as a big business mainly in 1840-1920.

2. Though home owners are responsible for the maintenance of their bluestone sidewalks, the city owns the bluestone. If you are taking any of it out, it is the law that you contact the city. They will happily take it away and store it for future use. Contact Yurij Donskoj at [donskoj@verizon.net](mailto:donskoj@verizon.net) or Steve Gorsline at [sgorsline@ci.kingston.ny.us](mailto:sgorsline@ci.kingston.ny.us) for more information.

3. For a list of masons who repair Bluestone, please visit our Ward 9 website.

## ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Jeanne Bittner is starting walking tours of the Montrepose Cemetery with history lessons. If you are interested, contact her at (845) 331-7113.

2. We were able to get approval for signs that remind dog owners to pick up after their pups. More on this shortly.

3. Re-instate neighborhood watch group.

4. Jewish holidays are not remembered on our government calendars. We'd like to ask that they be.

5. Submit petition asking the city to post the agendas of all government meetings (such as common council, planning, zoning, etc.)

## GOOD NEWS AND POSITIVE OUTCOMES

1. We have found transportation for up to 5 elderly residents in Ward 9 thanks to our neighbors at St. James Citgo on Broadway and W. Chester Street. They have made a generous donation of their car service Taylor's Taxi. Neighbors who can help identify those who would like to be at our meetings, but need a ride, please see Rebecca or Arthur, or email us at: [kingstonnyward9@googlegroups.com](mailto:kingstonnyward9@googlegroups.com)

2. Congrats to Arthur Zackiewicz, Janelle Boucher and Julie and Steve Noble for taking the first big steps in creating community gardens in our city! For more on this, visit our Ward 9 website.

3. Jennifer McKinley's buying club is underway with now 25 families! That means big discounts on wholesome foods for all. The more families that enroll, the more savings...so please sign up today.

*Continued on next page...*

## COMMENT BOX

**Q: Can we have a discussion about alternatives to using lawn pesticides and toxic weed killers? I am seeing more and more poison signs on people's lawns, warning away children and pets. This is a problem for people and bees and others. Maybe the organic community garden group knows a person who can lead a discussion?**

A: Absolutely. We will make arrangements for this panel to take place in the Spring of 2008 prior to the summer season.

## UPCOMING PANELS

### TONIGHT!

\* Thursday, August 16, 7:00 p.m.  
"Volunteering in your community: citizenship isn't a spectator sport - you can make a difference!"  
A panel discussion led by Catherine Canzian, Director SUNY Ulster Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

\* Thursday, September 20, 7:00 p.m.  
"An Introduction to the Comprehensive Planning Process 101"  
A panel discussion led by Jennifer Schwartz

Comprehensive Plans establish policies that guide future development based on a vision for the future and a strategy for achieving that vision. Although general in nature, a Comprehensive Plan includes a review of many different aspects of physical development including land use, transportation, public utilities, parks and recreation, historic preservation, redevelopment, economic development and environmental resources. The Comprehensive Plan enables local government officials and citizens to anticipate and deal constructively with changes occurring within the community. City and County planners have been invited to discuss this topic and answer your questions

\* Thursday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.  
"Reduce - Reuse - Recycle"  
A panel discussion led by Steve and Julie Noble

## TIP JAR DONATIONS

Collected, 7/19:	\$21.25
Balance From 6/21	(\$250.23)
Total:	(\$ 228.98)

Newsletter expense 6/21	
50 total, double sided:	\$6.00
Total:	(\$ 234.98)

## FAST FACT

Here are some interesting tidbits on volunteering from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

About 61.2 million people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2005 and September 2006 [the timeframe of the study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor]. The survey found that the proportion of the population who volunteered was **26.7** percent.

Of those surveyed, about **30.1** percent of the women were volunteers while **23** percent were men. "As in previous years [of the survey], women volunteered at a higher rate than men across all age groups, educational levels, and other major characteristics," the bureau said. "Persons aged 35 to 54 continued to be the most likely to volunteer (31.2 percent), while persons in their early twenties were the least likely (17.8 percent). While all age groups showed declines in volunteer rates from the prior year, the largest decline was among teenagers," the bureau said in its report.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The American city should be a collection of communities where every member has a right to belong. It should be a place where every man feels safe on his streets and in the house of his friends. It should be a place where each individual's dignity and self-respect is strengthened by the respect and affection of his neighbors. It should be a place where each of us can find the satisfaction and warmth which comes from being a member of the community of man. This is what man sought at the dawn of civilization. It is what we seek today."

- Lyndon B. Johnson

"Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the City of Kingston website, the "Kingston Planning Office has a staff of three, the City Planner, a Planning Aide and a Clerk."

The website states that the Kingston Planning Board has regular meetings held once a month, "typically on the second Monday evening, with exceptions made for holidays. Special meetings are held as needed, at the call of the Chairman."

The city says the "Board undertakes reviews of site plans, subdivisions, special permits, curb cut requests, rezoning applications for both map changes and text amendments, SEQR reviews and zoning variance recommendations upon the request of the ZEO."

The staff's "primary responsibilities are to meet with applicants and/or their designated representative to discuss the process and information needed to make submissions. We provide individuals with technical assistance in matters regarding planning, zoning and the SEQR laws. Detail reviews of plans are completed and site inspections made to assist the Board with the decision making process. Follow-up meetings and inspections are completed with Building Officials and Planning staff to insure compliance with approved plans."

## The Planning Board members include:

**Lee Molyneaux, Chairman**  
**Wayne Platte, Vice Chairman**  
**Bruce Mclean**  
**Steve Johnson**  
**Timothy Williams**  
**Pat Pillsworth (Alternate)**  
**Pat Garraghan (Alternate)**  
**James Reffelt (Alternate)**

**Suzanne Cahill** is the City Planner and can be reached at (845) 334-3955.