



'Sea' To The Green[®]

East Norwalk Neighborhood Association's Newsletter

Board of Directors

- *Laurel Lindstrom – President
- *Marija Bryant – Secretary
- *Gordon Tully – Treasurer
- *Erik Nees
- *Maribeth Becker
- *Wendye Pardue

Board meetings **Everyone's welcome to attend & participate**

Held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM
At Norwalk City Hall

Neighborhood meetings (as scheduled by host neighborhood)
Call for time and place if you're interested in hosting or attending

Contact Information

Website: Eastnorwalk.org

Email: Sea.To.The.Green@sbcglobal.net Phone: (203) 855-7668

The purpose of the ENNA is to foster and preserve the residential character, natural and historic resources and quality of life in the East Norwalk neighborhood, and to encourage the residents of East Norwalk to actively participate in achieving this purpose.

The area the ENNA serves includes the section of Norwalk east of the Norwalk River to the Westport Town Line and south of the Post Road to the Long Island Sound. Everyone that resides within these boundaries is a part of the ENNA neighborhood, and anyone that supports our goals can become a member.

The need for a neighborhood association that is active in the East Norwalk neighborhood was the motivation for our formation. Since starting we have not stopped working on improvements for the neighborhoods and quality of life concerns of residents and business owners in our community.

Message from the President

What a busy time we've had! Little more than a year ago we underwent a name change and formed a board of directors.

The next step is to gain 501(c) 3 tax-exempt status, which we applied for last month. Once the status is in place we'll be in a much better position to receive grants for some of the neighborhood improvements that we know are needed.

We also just recently set up the ENNA web pages on our own website at <http://eastnorwalk.org>. I recommend that you visit the site regularly for news affecting your neighborhood – and meeting and event information.

We encourage you to get more involved in our activities. There is something for everybody. We are setting new programs in place and we are looking forward to a productive year to come.

I hope to see you at some of our many meetings, forums and events in the months ahead.

Best Regards,
Laurel

City Bulletin Board

We are able to accomplish more for our members through collaborations with city departments, other organizations and individuals in the community.

◆ Mayor Alex Knopp has announced a Citywide Cleanup for Saturday, April 30. The ENNA is one of the organizations leading the planning process for this event that will take place from 8 AM to 4 PM. Please consider spending a couple hours that day to help make Norwalk a cleaner and more attractive place to live and work. Contact the ENNA to participate in the East Norwalk area.

Wall Street redevelopment plan is proceeding

Good news – Wall Street's rebirth is alive and well! Parcel 3 of the Wall Street Plan includes land east of the Norwalk River on upper Smith Street, Main Street and High Street— all property within the boundaries of the ENNA. The ENNA met with the Norwalk-based firm of M.F. DiScala & Company, whom the City has chosen as the developer. Mr. DiScala has accepted an invitation to present his plans for us this month – and we are inviting the public to comment on his proposal for the first time since he was chosen as the developer. We are staying abreast of all that takes place, making sure that the development includes: public access to the river; river views; traffic calming; affordable housing; neighborhood retail; aesthetics; historic preservation; and pedestrian-friendly streets. Since it is still early in the process we have time to participate and have an impact.

Revitalizing our Neighborhood Retail Centers

On the Walking Tour that the ENNA organized at the beginning of last year for Mayor Knopp, and the Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee (MNPC), we identified 3 neighborhood retail centers in need of revitalization. These are: Liberty Square; Cove Ave. at First Street; and Ludlow Shopping Center and the other shops that surround the historic cemetery. Since then the ENNA has researched several possibilities and presented proposals for improvement. The mayor has recently backed this initiative for revitalizing small retail centers. Norwalk's Redevelopment Agency will be involved and will oversee funding, as it becomes available, for these projects.

Where to hold our next Cleanup?

We organized 4 successful neighborhood cleanups last year. We anticipate an equal number for 2005. Our plan is to schedule more cleanups in select areas of the East Norwalk Neighborhood throughout the year. If you would like us to come to your neighborhood - or if you know of a section of East Norwalk that could use our help - please give us a call.

Making our School Zones safer

If you've recently walked or driven along that dangerous speedway that runs between Westport Avenue and the Metro North railroad overpass at Winfield Street (aka Strawberry Hill Avenue) you'll have noticed enhanced and newly erected traffic safety signs - thanks to the work of the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association. The ENNA successfully worked with the Public Works Department to create school zone signs with bright yellow reflective material attached to the posts so that drivers couldn't miss the fact that there are children walking here. The ENNA explored the addition of a traffic signal at Strawberry Hill Avenue and Tierney Street, brought to the attention of the Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee the need for more crosswalks and crosswalk enhancements to make walking safer - and contacted the Police Department, advocating for beefed-up enforcement regarding speeding vehicles. Even with police enforcement, sufficient signs, crosswalks and footpaths there is no guarantee that accidents won't occur, but the risk of a tragedy is lessened with these preventative safety measures in place. The ENNA has been instrumental in the addition of several of these safety enhancements and continues to focus on traffic, speeding and school safety as priorities.

Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhood Associations

The ENNA continues to be an active member of this association which is made up of more than a dozen associations. The ENNA is a member of the 3-member board that coordinates its activities. We continue to make recommendations for the West Ave. area development and will monitor the old Pepperidge Farm property as development is proposed for that site.

Become a Tree Liaison for the Neighborhood

The ENNA has worked closely with the City to plant street trees in our neighborhoods. The Tree Advisory Committee, as the Tree Board of Norwalk, is asking for representatives from the neighborhood to monitor and help protect the trees. It would involve identifying hazardous trees, recommending sites for new trees and monitoring the tree trimming near electric wires done each year for CL&P to avoid the butchering of our trees. Also, free trees are selectively available from the City, the planting of which the ENNA will facilitate. Contact us if you are interested in a free tree or in becoming an assistant Tree Liaison.

Tree City USA

The City of Norwalk has met all the criteria for this designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation - and submitted the application. If designated there are several benefits which include increased community pride, more grant opportunities and recognition as a city that cares about the environment. Our own president Laurel Lindstrom, as the Tree Advisory Committee member overseeing the application process, is especially proud of how far Norwalk has come.

Your Membership Support is needed today!

Your Support is crucial in allowing the ENNA to continue publishing this newsletter, acting as your watchdog on neighborhood issues, monitoring problems, attending zoning meetings, maintaining wetlands, initiating community improvement projects and keeping our streets safe for our families*.

Make donations payable to:

East Norwalk Neighborhood Association

Send check with this completed form to ENNA Treasurer, Gordon Tully, 6 Walnut Ave., Norwalk, CT 06851.

Please check amount enclosed:

___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$75 ___\$100 ___Other,
Or, ___ Unable to donate at this time, but add my name to the ENNA mail & email list for neighborhood updates. Provide:

Name(s) _____

Number of adults in household _____ Children _____

Address _____

Phone number (H) _____ (W) _____

Email address _____

(All information is confidential & only used by the ENNA)

*The ENNA receives no money from third district taxpayers. At the present time, all ENNA work is funded by members and citizens on a voluntary basis.



Visit the ENNA website at <http://eastnorwalk.org>