



# ‘Sea’ To The Green<sup>®</sup>

## East Norwalk Neighborhood Association’s Newsletter

Cost of this publication 100% paid with member contributions

### Board of Directors

- \*Laurel Lindstrom – President
- \*Marie DeLeo – Treasurer
- \*Richard Brousseau Jr. – Secr.
- \*Marija Bryant
- \*Erik Nees
- \*Anthony Halim
- \*Gordon Tully

**Mission Statement** 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 Community, and to encourage the residents of East Norwalk to actively participate in achieving this purpose.

**ENNA Neighborhood Issues Committee meetings – all are welcome**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 3:30 PM** Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 28, Apr. 25

**Location** 20 Raymond Terrace, Norwalk CT

**Contact Information** Website: [CalmTraffic.org](http://CalmTraffic.org) – click the ENNA Home Page link  
 Email: [SeaToTheGreen@cs.com](mailto:SeaToTheGreen@cs.com) Phone: (203) 855-7668

We are a “feisty neighborhood association,” according to The Hour newspaper article of January 27, 2003, formed “to act as a liaison between the residents and city departments such as Planning and Zoning Commissions.”

The East Avenue Neighborhood Association was formed in December of 2001 to address the concerns of the residents that live both north and south of I-95 in the vicinity of East Avenue. Since then the Association has grown. We are now the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association and are incorporating into a Nonprofit. The ENNA includes the area 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 member of the Association.

### Message from the President

This is a very exciting time for the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association, and it is reflective of the possibilities that may be in store for our area of Norwalk. The members of the newly formed Board of Directors of the ENNA are knowledgeable representatives for the area and look forward to hearing from neighborhood residents so that your concerns can be addressed. To give you an idea of our involvements some of our activities are listed below.

With warm regards,  
 Laurel Lindstrom

- We were the Co-coordinators for the East Norwalk Neighborhood meeting of the Citywide Traffic Summit in May of 2002 and continue our involvement by taking traffic and speeding problems to the City as residents contact us with concerns. We work in conjunction with the citywide advocacy group Advocates for Calm Traffic.
- We participated at Zoning Commission Public Hearings to support the preservation of our historic structures (93 East Avenue, Mill Hill Museum complex). The ENNA also monitors changes in condition of other significance buildings and developments so that action can be taken in time to protect the integrity of our neighborhood. We

support economic development, but not if traffic becomes unmanageable as a result. We encourage promotion of alternative modes of transportation to the automobile.

- We actively supported the Village District designation for East Avenue. The designation has been passed by the Planning Commission, the Common Council, the Mayor and the Zoning Commission. It is now part of the Zoning regulations.
- The Norwalk Tree Alliance has our support as it works with the city by coordinating volunteers to inventory all the street trees in the city. ENNA members have already been in the field helping to assess trees through this inventory process in the vicinity of City Hall.
- The ENNA is active in the City Scan project that encourages citizen participation through technology to monitor problems that need attention from the city. We have photo scanned First St., Myrtle St., Van Zant St., the streets near the Norwalk Green and Andrew’s Field with the assistance of street residents in summer and fall of last year. The city has already completed work on many of the conditions identified, including planting 23 trees.
- The ENNA supports a vibrant mixed-use revitalization of Wall Street that includes historic structures, affordable housing, public access to the river and a pedestrian-friendly environment, while taking safeguards to preserve and protect the river. We submitted written documentation earlier this year that has been incorporated into the Wall Street Master Plan of Development.
- **The East Norwalk Neighborhood Association** is a strong advocate of the public’s ‘right to know’ and right to participate in the government decision-making process. We welcome and encourage involvement by the neighborhood business community. We also participate in the planning and enjoyment of neighborhood gatherings that strengthen ties between neighbors. Whether it’s a street-wide tag sale, a block party or a backyard meeting of our neighborhood association we are there supporting quality of life for you and your family. Contact us if you would like to be an active member of the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association.

This is what city officials are saying about the ENNA, and how we are working with them....

- Mayor Knopp, who has attended our Neighborhood Issues Committee Meeting, emails to ask us to provide him with the residents' thoughts on specific issues that are of concern to them so that he can address the concerns appropriately.
- District A and C Councilmen have attended our Neighborhood Issues Committee meetings and are actively supportive of our efforts.
- TTD Commission Chairman David Brown has participated in several ENNA meetings, and in the newsletter of the Third Taxing District Electric Department 'Inside Your Third', says that "East Norwalk neighborhoods, recognizing the accomplishments of the ENNA interacting with City Hall to get problems resolved and remedies initiated, have attended meetings asking for help".
- The directors and staff of the Departments of Planning & Zoning, Public Works and Recreation & Parks are in consultation through regular and ongoing contact by ENNA.
- Police Chief Rilling and Deputy Chief Mark Palmer of the Police Department, through the ENNA's participation in the Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee monthly meetings, are kept informed and involved in resolving the needs of our members.

The East Norwalk Neighborhood Association has seven standing committees that were established to address the specific needs and issues that are of concern to you. We are looking for residents of the area to be members of these committees. Below are short pieces written by the chairpersons about issues they are following on their committees.

#### **What's up with the Contractor's Yard on Strawberry Hill?**

Even though the two dozen residents and elected officials that the ENNA mobilized to speak at the Zoning Board of Appeals public hearings earlier this year were not allowed to speak, we got our point across. The legal nonconforming contractor's yard next to Fitch Park just south of the I-95 will have to conform to standards. The City zoning inspector, in recent negotiations with the owner, has come up with a written agreement regarding conditions of operation and requirements. Contact the ENNA for details.

#### **Power lines**

The problems that occurred in the Phase 1 project from Bethel to Norwalk were a wake-up call to Hartford and Norwalk officials, and area residents. The Phase 2 project from Norwalk to Middletown should have safeguards in place. The route proposed by Northeast Utilities for the path of the Phase 2 project is underground along our northern boundary, the Post Road. Our Board of Directors supports the underground lines, and supports the state legislators who are actively advocating for the lines to be placed underground. The public hearings by the Siting Council are still in progress. The next NU project involves lines going from Norwalk to Stamford. Stay tuned....

Laurel Lindstrom, LELindstrom@cs.com or 855-7668  
Chairwoman Neighborhood Issues Committee

**Traffic, school zones and student safety.** We are presently gathering information from residents and officials.

Anthony Halim, akhalim@aol.com or 866-2652  
Chairman Schools and Education Committee

**Watch List for P&Z.** Staying ahead of plans, variances, and decisions is vitally important. For example, with 93 East Avenue, we were there from the beginning and so were well-prepared at the public hearing. Not that the decision changed but it made a lot of people think twice. Currently, the appeals of the Zoning Commission decision and the ZBA decision are logging through the legal process. Next on the horizon – check with P&Z to see what the plans are for the recently sold J.M. Layton building on the Green. Let me know of any others that might need to go on our "watch list."

Marija Bryant, marijab@aol.com or 838-6860  
Chairwoman Planning and Zoning Committee

**Take it slow.** Right now we're hearing from several residents on Tierney Street and on Strawberry Hill Avenue about ongoing problems with speeding. We are looking to improve safety, especially because several school zones exist along this stretch. Keep reporting speeding to the police so that it goes on record. Speed bumps on the side streets have helped considerably to increase safety for the residents living on those streets (and more are on the way next spring). And other traffic calming strategies are utilized on the main routes.

Erik Nees, enees@alicemillsinc.com or 838-7237  
Chairman Roads and Public Works Committee

**Potential for greenery along city streets.** We recently took over the Adopt-A-Spot in front of City Hall on East Ave where Mums are now growing in place of weeds. Along stretches of some streets there is a lack of trees. The City has free trees available that they will plant near the street on your property. Contact me if you are interested, or if you know of a location on city or private property where a tree belongs.

Marie DeLeo, mfdeleo@hotmail.com or 831-0226  
Chairwoman Beautification and Parks Committee

**Openings on Board.** At the annual meeting of the Association each September members have the opportunity to elect new directors to the Board and to have a say in Association directions. Currently there are positions available on the Board. Directors serve without pay. The ENNA is nonpartisan. Please contact me if you are interested in applying.

Gordon Tully, architul@aol.com or 853-2882  
Chairman Board Development Committee

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

Richard Brousseau, Jr., richb@nnistamford.org or 852-1511  
Chairman Membership and Publicity Committee

Make donations payable to **East Norwalk Neighborhood Association** and send to ENNA Treasurer, Marie DeLeo, 19 Sunlit Drive, Norwalk, CT 06851. Please check amount   \$25     \$50     \$75     \$100     Other  . Provide: your name; number of adults, seniors and children in household; address; phone number; and email address.

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