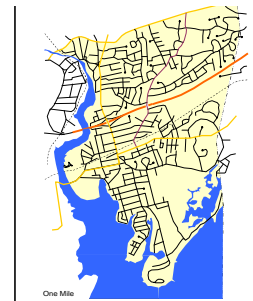


Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association, (203) 855-7668

Serious Flooding Problems in Our ENNA Neighborhoods

The ENNA has heard from residents on Olmstead Place, Gwendolyn Street, Lockwood Lane and Buckingham Place about flooding in their yards and homes (even before the August 27 storm that flooded homes that had never before been flooded). The following article written by Karen Randmer, a Buckingham Place resident, describes the seriousness of the problem – and outlines ways in which we can help.



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Highlights

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Many of the residents of Buckingham Place and Lockwood Lane have recently formed a neighborhood association, named B & L, with the goal of ensuring that the City of Norwalk obtain and allocate the required funds to rectify a drainage problem that over the last few years has reached disastrous levels in many of the properties of these streets as well as other areas in Norwalk.

At present, the job has not been easy, could cost in the millions of dollars, and it does not seem that the problem will be solved anytime in the next year unless there is more active involvement in the community. The seriousness of the situation has increased to emergency levels where the gushing of the storm drains into Buckingham and Lockwood reach levels of 4-5 ft within 15 minutes of a heavy rain.

The damage to properties including basements, yards, living space, cars, etc. has increased substantially causing not only monetary damage, but potential health risks as well, as I discovered when I developed a bad rash over my arms and legs after cleaning up 5 inches of water in my own basement during one of the recent string of rainstorms this summer.

I recently attended a meeting where a Gwendolyn St.

resident spoke about her own property flooding and having the water tested. It was found with high levels of the E-coli bacteria. This further concerned me since the last rainfall, after being forced to remove my basement door and close up my foundation; I had several inches from backup of my utility sink in the basement, which indicates sewage. My neighbors and I share the same fear each time there is a forecast of rain.

Our goal is not to accuse or upset anyone, but to work with officials who can help us use our very precious time outside our families and jobs to target the correct processes and obtain information so that the people in our City government can allocate these funds to the Dept. of Public

Works as quickly as possible to rectify this problem, protect our properties and maintain their values.

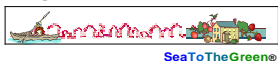
We appeal to anyone who can help, including providing us with information or services that can be useful in the following way:

1. We need to clarify the facts of what the City of Norwalk is responsible for. Is it to remove the water gushing out of the storm drains, or are they only responsible if there is sewage in the water?
2. We need to be sure we have utilized all possible ways to get the funds and ensure they are allocated to

Buckingham Place



Eastern Norwalk
Neighborhood Association



SeaToTheGreen[®]

Buckingham/Lockwood Flooding (continued)

"... We need to be assured that the City of Norwalk will be cautious in allowing further construction in Norwalk until the current drainage problem is solved."

the project. We have had some assistance by some officials who have been very active and interested to help us. We will be appealing during the budget process for next year, but do not expect that would be enough, nor can the funds be utilized before 1 July, 2007. We are currently trying to get any spare funds available reallocated to the Dept. of Public Works for this. Mayor Moccia graciously came to our neighborhood and met the residents of Buckingham and Lockwood at Lisa Riviuccio's Buckingham home recently and agreed to declare the situation an emergency. Our hope would be that he could appeal to the Governor to do the same in order to seek federal and/or state funds. I understand in order to do this, we would have to show that the damage is great enough. I would like

to quantify the damages and create a history and request that any residents send their history, correspondence, claims costs, pictures and other information to quantify damages they have suffered over the years to me at 34 Buckingham Place, Norwalk, CT 06851 so we can pursue this appeal for funds.

3. It takes time and effort and more information to reach our goal. There are only a few involved working very hard and it will not be enough. It takes time away from family and work and we would be grateful if we could network with more neighbors who can assist in time, research, information, attending meetings on behalf of the group,

anything that can save time and speed the process up. The more people helping, the less each individual load will be. Please consider offering whatever you can to assist. Individuals who have previously tried to solve their own problems with this have failed and it will take everyone working together for the good of all residents. There is no other way.

4. We need to be assured that the City of Norwalk will be cautious in allowing further construction in Norwalk until the current drainage problem is solved.

If you can assist us please contact Lisa Riviuccio (lisamr63@yahoo.com) or myself, Karen Randmer (email: kr@blystad.co.uk).

Please check our website for ongoing updates and the next Public Hearing date, which will be posted as soon as it is available.

Also, be aware that as a member of the public you can attend (but not speak at) commission meetings that are not posted as public hearings but where commissioners discuss and/or vote on items.

Former "Fitch School" (Lea Manor) site

The Conservation Commission's Public Hearing on the old Fitch School property at 73 Strawberry Hill Ave. was held on Tuesday, Sept. 26th. The developer presented their housing proposal, with consultants substantiating their opinion that the development would result in improvements to the land and surrounding wetlands. About 30 residents from ENNA streets adjacent to the site spoke in opposition to the proposal mainly focusing on concerns about existing flooding problems on their properties potentially worsening as a result of the

development. Olmstead Pl., Raymond Terrace, Strawberry Hill Ave. and Gwendolyn St. were represented. The large turnout of residents resulted in the Commission delaying the vote until the next meeting (Oct. 10) in order that the commissioners could carefully review the data presented.

Approval by Conservation is required in addition to approval by the Zoning Commission so the developer is awaiting the Conservation Commission's decision before submitting

the plan to Planning and Zoning. Once at P&Z, the developer seeks to change current zoning laws to accommodate their plan, by way of a "Zoning Amendment" to expand current limitations on the quantity of units allowed.

The developer's current plan calls for a Planned Residential Development (PRD) with 29 units to be placed on the 3 acres adjacent to the Fitch playground.

(continued on page 3)

Save 93 East Avenue

To our dismay a Demolition Notice recently appeared on the Grumman - St. John House located at Morgan Ave. and East Ave. near the Historic Norwalk Green. This house replaced the original that was burned down during the Revolutionary War. It sits upon the site of the most important Revolutionary War battlefield of Norwalk's history. And the core of the building, a part of the rebuilding of Norwalk after it was burned by the British, is still there to be seen more than 200 years later.



The owners of the Norwalk Inn plan to demolish the structure in order to build an extension to the inn. Creative planning may come up with a way of preserving the building and still achieving the Norwalk Inn's expansion needs. It will take everyone working together - the City of Norwalk, the Norwalk Inn, the preservationists and all of us - to save this historic structure located at the gateway to the Norwalk Green and within the boundaries of the ENNA.

Creative planning may come up with a way of preserving the building.

Former "Fitch School" site (continued from pg 2)

PRD's are multi-family dwelling units. The land is within the town's B-Zone ordinance. The B-zone maximum allowed PRD cap has already been reached. Therefore, the developer is asking the town to change the Zoning laws to exceed

the current limit.

Without a change to Zoning, the developer can build up to 18 individual homes on a newly built cut de sac, as an alternate plan shows.

The ENNA will continue to

monitor progress with city officials.

To stay abreast of upcoming hearings and presentations about this property and others, please visit our website <http://eastnorwalk.org>

Contribute

We need member contributions to print flyers and newsletters, purchase supplies for neighborhood cleanups, create poster displays for our events - and any number of other activities that have an associated cost. We ask for a contribution annually of \$25 per household. If you haven't contributed this year please consider doing so. Our level of achievement is only as great as your generosity.

To Volunteer, Join or Contribute to the ENNA please complete the information below and mail to: ENNA, 6 Walnut Ave. Norwalk, CT 06851.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Check enclosed _____ Volunteer _____

Interests or Special Skills:

All contributions are fully tax-deductible.
Information kept confidential, for ENNA use only.



ENNA



ENNA
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Terrace
Norwalk, CT 06855

Phone
(203) 855-7668

E-mail
Sea.to.the.green
@sbcglobal.net

*From the
Sea to the Green
...and everywhere
in between*



We're on the Web!
See us at:

<http://eastnorwalk.org>

Volunteer

For every talent, skill and interest we have a volunteer job to match.

This newsletter highlights many of the programs and projects of the ENNA – and with each activity volunteers are needed.

Even if your available time is limited, you can help by taking on small or occasional assignments.

To stay up to date with our activities and opportunities for participation, please provide your email address on the form on the previous page. We will send you regular meeting reminders and updates.

Our website can be found at <http://eastnorwalk.org>. The Calendar and Meeting Minutes pages are excellent sources for information.

The ENNA meets monthly at Norwalk City Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

About Our Organization

The ENNA is organized and operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes:

To foster and preserve the residential character, natural and historic resources and quality of life in the eastern Norwalk community;

To encourage the residents of eastern Norwalk to actively participate in achieving the purpose set forth above;

To provide assistance to governmental and not-for-profit organizations with purposes similar to, or with activities in furtherance of, the purposes set forth above.

EASTERN NORWALK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
20 RAYMOND TERRACE
NORWALK, CT 06855



MEMBER NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE