



'Sea' To The Green[®]

East Norwalk Neighborhood Association's Newsletter

<p>Board of Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Laurel Lindstrom – President *Marie DeLeo – Treasurer *Richard Brousseau Jr. – Secr. *Marija Bryant *Erik Nees *Gordon Tully 	<p>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 neighborhood, and to encourage the residents of East Norwalk to actively participate in achieving this purpose.</p> <p>Board meetings – open to all 2nd Wednesday at 7:30 PM – Location Norwalk City Hall, Room 322</p> <p>Neighborhood meetings – all welcome – call in advance for time and place. 4th Sunday at 3:30 PM (or as scheduled by host neighborhood)</p> <p>Contact Information Website: CalmTraffic.org – click the ENNA Home Page Email: SeaToTheGreen@cs.com Phone: (203) 855-7668</p>
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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 2001 to address the concerns of residents that reside 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. 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 ENNA President regarding the Annual Meeting

In September the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association will hold an annual meeting for the first time since becoming a registered nonprofit organization with the State of Connecticut.

The gathering will likely consist of a short meeting, a stimulating presentation by a guest speaker and refreshments.

If you plan on attending please call or send us your contact information so that we can notify you of the specifics in advance of the meeting.

Also, if you are interested in becoming a director on our Board of Directors you must have your completed application form returned to the ENNA no later than August 15, 2004 to be eligible as a candidate for election by the membership at the annual meeting. Please contact us for more information.

Sincerely,
 Laurel Lindstrom

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.

ENNA Master Plan Recommendations

The Planning Commission is in the process of updating the Plan of Conservation and Development (Master Plan) for Norwalk. This document is revised every decade and is the blueprint for development. The ENNA presented a 27 page document of recommendations, with a power point show, at an April 20 workshop held by the Planning Commission to solicit the East Norwalk neighborhood concerns. We included assets to be preserved and protected as well as examples of damaging trends that need to be reversed. Recommendations included zoning changes to enhance neighborhood businesses, traffic calming measures that would divert and slow traffic, and beautification additions to plantings, parks and signage. The ENNA will continue to follow the Master Plan process to ensure that our neighborhood receives due attention.

ENNA Collaborations

We are able to accomplish more for our members through collaborations with other organizations and individuals in the community. The City Scan project that encourages citizen participation through technology to monitor problems that need attention from the city is a partner in our photo scans of neighborhood issues. The Norwalk Tree Alliance has recently found a new home at 215 East Avenue for its volunteer work with the city street tree program, in part due to recommendations from the ENNA. The ENNA is one of the three board reps on the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations that represents nearly 20 member associations. We also work closely with the Mayor, Councilmen, State Reps and City Departments and Commissions on an ongoing basis.

Our Bus and Walking Tour with the Mayor

The recent Tour that the ENNA organized for Mayor Knopp and the Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee (MNPC) mobilized the area residents and local business owners to make improvements to their properties. The ENNA will be attending the monthly meetings of the MNPC to follow the progress of the quality of life conditions that were identified as requiring attention from the City. We will continue to present new concerns that arise in the neighborhoods so that the City can best remediate the problems. Whether it is a matter for the zoning inspector, the police, public works or the health department – the ENNA monitoring the progress will help get the improvements done.

Spring Cleanup, one completed more to come...

We organized a successful neighborhood cleanup on April 17 from the shoreline of Veterans Park to the streets near the Van Zant and Fort Point area. The plan is to schedule more cleanups in select areas of the East Norwalk Neighborhood later in the year.

Wall Street & West Avenue plans and the ENNA

The ENNA supports a vibrant mixed-use revitalization of Wall Street that preserves historic structures, and adds 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 last year that was included in the Wall Street Master Plan, a plan that we support.

The Norwalk Center (West Avenue) plan is one we oppose. No matter how much it's downsized it still is based on a 'destroy and recreate' strategy that ignores history, tradition, local residences and neighborhood businesses. The plan, no matter how one looks at it, calls for the creation of an outdoor mall that's void of local character.

Historic Building Plaquing Program & Inventory

The Norwalk Historical Society and the Norwalk Preservation Trust have the support of the ENNA in the determined effort to promote pride in and preservation of our historic structures. A recent ENNA board meeting hosted the Historical Society to promote this intent.

Mid-Harbor study and the ENNA

The City has recently hired an excellent consultant firm based in Boston to create a Mid-Harbor Master Plan that includes both sides of the Harbor from Veterans Park to the Wall Street area. At the request of the City, along with other interested parties, the ENNA met with the consultant last month to provide our ideas and recommendations. We have continued our contact with the firm to keep them abreast of member concerns. We support the emphasis on public inclusion in the planning process from start to finish. We look forward to the days ahead as the ideas that we have put forward find their way into the final Mid-Harbor Master Plan.

Toward more trees in our neighborhoods

Last year the ENNA worked successfully with the residents of First St. to have the City plant 23 street trees on a street that was barren of trees. We also, with the Norwalk Tree Alliance, organized an Arbor Day ceremony on April 30 at Marvin Elementary including the planting near the school playground of two trees – a school tree and a tree in the memory of a classmate, Kelvin Alvarez, who recently lost his life to leukemia. At the ceremony Mayor Knopp read a Tree Proclamation that is another step toward the establishment of Norwalk as an official Tree City, which the ENNA enthusiastically supports. Free trees are selectively available from the City, the planting of which the ENNA will facilitate. Contact us if you are interested, or if you know of a location on city or private property near the street where a tree belongs.

The Mayor and Common Council unanimously voted in April to appoint to the Zoning Board of Appeals one of our board members, Gordon Tully, who they recognized for his neighborhood-focused initiatives and professional expertise as an architect. Congratulations Gordon!

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 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, Marie DeLeo, 19 Sunlit Drive, Norwalk, CT 06851.

Please check amount enclosed:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ Other
(Enter amount)

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 is not affiliated with the East Norwalk Improvement Association (ENIA) and receives no money from third district taxpayers. All ENNA work is funded by members and citizens on a voluntary basis.

