



THE VILLAGE OF WALDEN

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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SPRING IS THE SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS

The warm weather is just around the corner and the Walden Community Council (WCC) has plenty of activities already underway to usher in the new season.

In this issue of The Village of Walden Community Connection we highlight everything from the Main Street **Revitalization** program to the **newly** elected Walden Business Association (WBA) board members. We also provide an update on the **inception** of the rail trail and **beginning** stages of the proposed commuter rail.

And as we do each quarter to help promote our business owners and village, we spotlight a local business. See page two for this quarter's spotlight – Drive Safety Institute.

Be sure to join our mailing list to receive The Community Connection via email as well as other important and timely information about our neighborhood. Join the mailing list by visiting www.waldencommunitycouncil.org and clicking on "about us."

If you have an interest in the positive promotion of the Village of Walden, the Walden Community Council is for you. Our members consist of Village residents, employees and business owners, working together to enrich our community.

Monthly meetings are held in various business locations throughout the village on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and new members are encouraged to join.

- The Walden Community Council Board

Upcoming Walden Community Council Schedule:

March 11	Masonic Lodge
April 8	East Side Choppers
May 13	Orange Physical Therapy
June 10	Truffa Seed Company
July 6	Wallkill Valley Times, Rt. 17K Newburgh
August 12	Annual Picnic
September 9	Walden Federal

All meetings start promptly at 7:00pm.

WBA ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN

The Walden Business Association (WBA), a committee formed by the Walden Community Council to better serve the specific needs of the local business community, has just entered its second year. Mike Ciardullo, the newly appointed chairman of the WBA, recently addressed the members at one of their monthly meetings. Topics included 2008 accomplishments and 2009 goals, one of which is to continue to feature a business of the month on their website – www.waldenbusinessassociation.org.

WBA meetings are held on the first Friday of each month in the 2nd floor community room of Village Hall at 8am.

MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION UPDATE

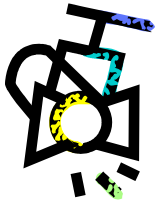
While some applicants have been awarded funding from the 2008 Main Street Grant Program, other applications continue to be reviewed. The WCC has announced that it will apply again for more grant funding in 2009. Those interested in participating should contact the WCC.

RAIL TRAIL AND COMMUTER RAIL

With the rail trail between the village of Walden and the Hamlet of Wallkill in the final phases of completion, the WBA has announced plans to produce a map of the rail trail and surrounding communities to help promote businesses in the area. The maps will be surrounded by ads of local businesses and identify where the businesses are located. These maps will be available at kiosks on each end of the trail as well as the new welcome center being built in Walden. Check with the WBA for availability of advertisement space on these maps.

Speaking of rails, Walden recently completed a preliminary study to analyze the feasibility of a commuter line that would indirectly connect the village to New York City. The study estimated the number of daily passengers and the cost of required track improvements, cars and stations. While some fear the impact to village parking and congestion a commuter line would bring, others see the potential benefit to local businesses. The next step is a more comprehensive study required by Metro-North to determine the viability of such a line.





LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:

Drive Safety Institute

NYS Drinking Driver Program

Jose E. De Jesus, Director

driversafetyinstitute@yahoo.com

(845) 313-7220

The Driver Safety Institute operates one of two Drinking Driver Programs (DDP) in Orange County. The DDP is part of New York State's effort to reduce the personal and property losses caused by drivers under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Under the guidance of the director and staff, DDP participants discuss the social, medical, legal, and driver safety problems caused by alcohol and other drug abuse. The program includes classroom education, screening, and if warranted evaluation and treatment.

Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs (including legally prescribed drugs) is a serious problem, which can lead to arrest, injuries and death.



Following are some quick facts compiled by Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) sited from [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](http://www.nhtsa.gov):

- Motor vehicle crashes remain the number one cause of death among youth ages 15-20. There were 7,460 youth motor vehicle deaths in 2005. (Includes both drivers and passengers.)
- Twenty-eight percent (28%) of 15- to 20-year-old drivers who were killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2005 had been drinking.
- In 2005, 24% of the young male drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking at the time of the crash, compared with 12% of the young female drivers involved in fatal crashes.
- It is estimated that 24,560 lives have been saved by minimum drinking age laws since 1975.

While we prefer not to meet you because of a driving while intoxicated conviction, if you are required to participate in the DDP you may attend the Driver Safety Institute's classes in Walden. DDP enrollment is through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Other Upcoming Walden Events:

- Mar. 18 - Election Day for Village of Walden Mayor and Trustees
- Mar. 26 - Annual History Day – Municipal Building
- Apr. 26 - Annual Tea and Jacob T. Walden House
- May 16 - Walden Soap Box Derby
- Jun. 14 - Dedication of Walden Veterans Memorial Park

WCC SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

Did you know the Walden Community Council has a Scholarship Committee that offers grants to local residents? This past year, the committee awarded financial assistance to Crystal Scott to help her participate in the William and Mary in Washington Program. Crystal is participating in an internship at the Holocaust Museum.

Crystal recently sent a letter to the Council and in it she writes, "To see the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial every morning is such an honor. I love being in the nation's capital, surrounded with years and years of US history. This past Friday I was at the Library of Congress and the week before that I was at the National Archives! I also got the opportunity to attend the Inauguration! That in itself was such a life-altering experience. Thank you so much for your communal support!"



Crystal Scott, WCC Scholarship Recipient

If you are interested in learning more about our Scholarship committee or contributing, join us at our next meeting.

WCC TO ERECT FLAG POLE

Please support the WCC's effort to erect a flag pole in the small park just west of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. Donations payable to the Walden Community Council can be sent to the WCC at PO Box 524, Walden, NY, 12586. Call Mayor Becky Pearson for more information at 778-7392.



We're on the Web!
www.waldencommunitycouncil.org
waldencommunitycouncil@yahoo.com