

East Mountain News

East Mountain Neighborhood Assn. Waterbury, CT
Check our website: www.EastmountainCT.com

Next Meeting
Sept. 19th 7:00 PM

September 2012

East Mountain
Neighborhood Association

President: Bob Perigard 753-2575
V. Pres: Turner Langdon 756-0749
Secretary: Stacey Kearney 725-7343
Treasurer: Evelyn Carrah 756-2927

2012-2013 Meeting Dates & Speakers

Sept. 19 Atty. Julia Brown
Certified Elder Care
Oct. 17 Wtby Fire Marshall's Office
* Nov. 14 Wesson Energy

Dec. 19 Christmas Social
Jan. 16 Open
Feb. 20 Rep. Selim Noujaim
Mar. 20 Mayor Neil O'Leary
* Apr. 24 John Shove
Grasshopper Lawns
May 15 Open
June 19 Award of H.S. Student Grant

* Date Change

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Neighbors & Friends:

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable, relaxing and safe summer. We are in our 12th year as a neighborhood association and our past reputation has earned the respect of city officials and many other neighborhood associations. Let me take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all our members who have worked tirelessly on behalf of the association in order to preserve the quality of life in our neighborhood. Our dedicated members consistently donate their time, talent, and resources in order to ensure our community remains safe, secure, and a pleasant place for our families to live.

I cannot begin to express the importance for all East Mountain residents to share a responsibility to maintain our small part of this world. We would love to have as many people as possible at our monthly meetings. It is understandable that many of us have family obligations and work-related duties that prevent us from sharing our time because of everything else we have to do. Join us at our meetings if you can, or at least help by supporting our work with your \$15.00 membership dues. You can be sure it will be used for the benefit of our community.

Having lived in East Mountain for over 60 years I am proud of our neighborhood. I am honored to serve as your Association President and will do my best to make the E.M.N.A. a successful and respected organization. Past officers have established our good reputation and together we can continue this tradition. Please join us, as I can only imagine what great things we can accomplish together.

Thanks,

Bob Perigard
President

We would like to offer some new events this year to all East Mountain residents who might be interested. There is a list of suggestions on the back of the membership form. If you have any additional ideas we would be happy to hear them. List your preferences #1 through #5 on the line preceding the event. We will make every effort to honor as many requests as possible.

Newsletter Committee

PAVER FLAG:

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After much deliberation it was agreed that a change was needed for our flower flag on the dam. The cost of flowers, aging volunteers for planting, watering and weeding were main concerns. It was decided to make a more permanent flag with less maintenance. The summer of 2011 was spent painting 470 6"x9" concrete pavers. This project was completed by many neighborhood volunteers for the installation in the fall of 2011. Weather and scheduling postponed the project until the spring of 2012.

Finally, with shovels and rakes in hand, and the generous help of East Mt. resident, David Perugini with P&R Construction's equipment, more than 15 yards of soil were removed. Four tons of trap rock was spread and tamped, followed by 5 tons of stone dust. Each block was installed by hand and after three days the end results were very rewarding. It was voted at the following meeting to surround the flag with new sod. With the help of East Mt. resident Lenny Solomita of Lenny's Lawncare & Landscaping, and K.C. Landscaping instant grass was installed. Much care is needed for new sod in the early stages and we are fortunate to have a few long-time members who are dedicated to the daily watering schedule.

Many thanks go out to all those neighbors who volunteered for this worthwhile project. We can all be very proud of our distinctive landmark that should last for many years to come with very little maintenance. The total cost of this project was about \$2200, paid from dues and donations. You can see why your \$15.00 dues per year is so important for projects like this and future endeavors. Be proud of our signature landmark and ask how you can help to maintain this lasting tribute.

HARRY NORTHROP GRANT RECIPIENT:

Once again, for our 10th year the E.M.N.A. presented a grant of \$750.00 in memory of Harry Northrop to a deserving high school graduate who is a resident of East Mountain. Mr. Northrop was a long time resident of East Mountain who was a founder of the East Mt. Community Club and the East Mt. Athletic Assn. He was instrumental in the construction of the original East Mt. Park and a memorial stone is dedicated to him in the memorial circle of our new park.

This year's recipient was Gabriel Hamawi, son of Mr. & Mrs. Paghona Hamawi of Peach Orchard Rd.

Gabriel is a 2012 graduate of Holy Cross High School who excelled in his studies. He will be attending Southern CT University in the fall and plans to major in Pre-Med. We wish him success in his studies and congratulate him on achieving this honor.

STARS & STRIPES FOREVER:

Back in 2003, to honor the troops fighting in Iraq, the Association purchased 25 flags, at a cost of \$10.00 per flag, to be flown from utility poles on Hamilton Ave., Peach Orchard Rd., and East Mountain Rd. This endeavor was very popular and neighbors wanted to see more flags on their streets. Many donated, \$10, \$20, or even \$50 to purchase more flags. The following year 40 more flags were

purchased and installed throughout the mountain. Every street had at least 1 or 2 flags mounted on lighted poles.

Mother Nature was not kind to our patriotic enthusiasm as the constant strong breezes played havoc on the poles, mounting brackets and flags themselves. Much research led us to a cast aluminum bracket with rotating aluminum poles and nylon flags. Of course, this new product did not come without a price increase. A flag set cost \$28.00. Once again, neighbors stepped up with donations and, with some money from the E.M.N.A. treasury, we were able to purchase 35 sets of the new design. Some of the old style remained for another year, but now we had more than 90 flags in the neighborhood.

Over the years 10-15 flag sets were purchased per year and today there are over 160 flags flying on every lighted pole as well as some unlit poles. The price per set is almost \$40. Fortunately we have only to replace about 40 nylon flags (\$15 each) per year. The aluminum poles and brackets have withstood the elements very well with only an occasional replacement. This is just another example of your membership dues (\$15.00 per year per household) being used to enhance our neighborhood.

We were the first neighborhood association to install flags and many other associations have followed our lead, including the Waterbury Neighborhood Council who install and maintain the same style flag sets on the Waterbury Green.

Many thanks to our flag crew who install, check, replace and remove all the flags every year. The flags are installed before Memorial Day and removed after Veterans Day on Nov. 11th. Please ask how you can help with this worthwhile project.

PARK UPDATE: by Larry Davino

Each morning, all year long as weather permits, you can find me out for a walk in our beautiful park. Many times I am fortunate to have a walking partner and both of us can enjoy casual conversation and get the benefit of fresh air and exercise. Alone or with someone, it's a great way to start the day.

On these walks I notice much improvement in the cleanliness of the park and bordering East Mountain Road. This year the improvement was amazing and I believe can be attributed to some main factors working in favor of a litter-free park.

First of all, there are more volunteers who are willing to spend a few moments of their walk and pick up trash left behind by that 2 or 3 percent who don't use the many receptacles provided by the city. These volunteers are growing in number and clean up the park because they enjoy seeing the park litter free and take pride in keeping the park clean. My hat is off to all of them. Secondly, the dog waste bags are being used much more often this year than previously, leaving the walking path much cleaner. It is disheartening to have learned that the bags are often used for child's play. This has caused us not to refill 3 of the bag stations. The people who walk their dogs seem to be using the bags from the remaining stations and so the walking path is clear from dog waste. The geese are another matter!

Finally, I have observed a major change in the cleanliness of the ball fields this year. I believe this has happened because the Athletic Association makes an ongoing concerted effort to ask its coaches to urge the players and fans to keep those areas clean. This has made a remarkable difference resulting in cleaner fields and dugouts.

I have also observed that most people using the playground, basketball court and gazebo are cleaning up after themselves by using the trash receptacles provided by the city. I think it would help to have a few more receptacles closer to those areas as many times I have seen those bins full to overflowing.

Anyone who goes to the park on a Monday morning after a long hot weekend will find most of the receptacles full to overflowing, indicating high usage. User cleanup is not 100% but it sure seems better this year than before. I have talked to city employees working by the trash bins in the parking lot on Sunday, which was a welcome surprise. It would be very helpful regarding the park cleanliness if the Park and Refuse Departments would coordinate their trash removal date so that the full and overflowing receptacles are emptied when it would do the most good. Monday and Friday morning trash removal would probably be best.

Lately, especially this year, people using the park seem to care more about its cleanliness – I sure hope this trend continues indefinitely.

PRESERVING A CLEAN & SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD:.....by Ned Mencio

The E.M.N.A. is asking for your help in keeping our community as clean and safe as possible. We have a few suggestions that might help in this endeavor.

1. Please pick up any trash that might accumulate around your property. Pull weeds or unwanted grass from your sidewalk and driveway.
2. If there is a fire hydrant or catch basin near your home, try to keep them free of any debris as well as ice and snow. Keeping basins and drains clear will prevent street flooding.
3. If you see a home that is overgrown with weeds (9” or more) please notify an officer of the Association who will then contact the Blight Office to have the grass cut. This may discourage any intruder who might think the house is vacant.
4. All blue refuse containers and recycle bins must be placed at the curb on the night before pickup and returned to your property no later than that evening. They are not to remain curbside.
5. Be sure that your house numbers (minimum 4”) are visible from the street so emergency personnel can locate your house.

FAMILY MOVIE IN THE PARK:

The E.M.N.A. presents “The Lorax” on Friday, Aug. 31st at 8:00 PM. Free popcorn! Bring your blankets, chairs, and favorite snacks for a night of fun under the stars. Rain date will be Saturday, Sept. 1st at 8:00 PM

EVENT OPTIONS: (Please indicate 5 top options, numbered 1 through 5)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio City Music Hall Trip (Christmas time) | <input type="checkbox"/> Concert in the Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Block Party (at the Park) | <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Club | <input type="checkbox"/> N. B. Rock Cats Baseball Night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seven Angels Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> Palace Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pizza & Ice Cream Night | <input type="checkbox"/> Cards Night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your opinion for other options _____ | |

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Aug. 31: Family Movie Night in the Park 8:00 PM
- Sept. 19: Discussion and approval of recommended changes to By-Laws.
Please go online to www.eastmountainCT.com to view recommended changes to By-Laws.
- Oct/Nov: Elections: 2 year term – Vice President and Treasurer
October: Nominations
Please consider running for one of these offices as a sense of pride in our neighborhood,
As well as doing your part to ensure our quality of life in East Mt. and Waterbury.
November: Elections
- Dec. 2: Christmas Tree Lighting and Visit from Santa at 5:30 PM at the East Mountain Golf Course Club House. – Open to the Public
- Dec. 19: Christmas Social following monthly meeting
- May: Date to be announced. Earth Day – Neighborhood Clean-Up.
- June 19: Presentation of Harry Northrop Memorial Grant to a high school graduate residing in East Mountain. End of year pot luck social.