

Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association, (203) 855-7668

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Eastern Norwalk
Neighborhood Association



SeaToTheGreen®

Strawberry Hill Gets Attention

During the summer of 2005, residents of Strawberry Hill caught the attention of the ENNA concerning traffic issues on their street. For years residents have complained, and with the proposals of housing developments in the area, the complaints increased.

The ENNA organized and hosted a public forum on Strawberry Hill traffic safety at our monthly meeting on March 8 of this year. A panel of city officials was invited to speak, listen and

answer questions. All of the residents were notified to attend. Immediately after the public forum, Norwalk Police stepped up speed enforcement on the street and a more concentrated effort was given during the week of "slow down days", March 20-27th. That week a late night high-speed head on car collision drew even more attention to the gravity of the problem.

On April 4, members of the ENNA addressed the planning committee of the



common council asking for approval of \$80,000 for a traffic calming engineering study and design for the street. April 11th funding was approved by a full council.

Additionally, after the ENNA recommended that Strawberry Hill be considered for "Safe Routes To School", the City applied for some of the federal grant funds that are available for this program.

The ENNA will continue to monitor progress with city officials.

A healthy yard protects your family & Norwalk's wildlife

This summer, as you tend to your yard, consider the ways that "natural landscaping" can create a wonderful outdoor space for friends and family while protecting them from toxic substances and protecting Norwalk's wildlife, plant species and the health of Long Island Sound.

Our quality of life and the health of plants and wildlife are interdependent. All can benefit from humans creating habitats that are non-toxic sustainable places to live.

Modern science has devised ingenious ways to kill bugs, fungus and weeds. Unfortunately, there is a big tradeoff. These "amazing lawn and garden" products often leave behind pesticide residue that seeps into our water, food chain, and wildlife. Wildlife affected are songbirds, shorebirds, shellfish, pets, even the bluefish we so happily fish for in July.

The Natural Resource Defense Council recently reported that the majority of tick products and pesticides contain organophosphate

insecticide that kills only a limited number of insects, but also may damage the nervous systems of pets and people.

That's why it's so important to carefully select your yard and garden products.

Beer: Looking for a way to control slugs in the garden? Buy 'em a beer. This is a non-toxic substitute for common pesticides. There are many such non-toxic ways to lessen your use of pesticides.

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... With the sizable increase of building and large developments in Eastern Norwalk, there is more impervious surface area than ever.

Your Healthy Yard, (continued)

Simple actions, such as reducing or ending use of pesticides and fertilizers can assure a healthier environment for humans and wildlife. Using non-toxic solutions such as beer for slugs and garlic spray as a deer repellent is a step in the right direction.

Protect the Pollinators that clean our air. Birds, butterflies and bees are nature's pollinators who prevent the die-out of oxygen-producing vegetation. We need this air-cleaning vegetation, especially being so close to I-95. Pesticides can poison this important wildlife and damage their ability to reproduce. Popular lawn care pesticides containing carbaryl, malathion, and chlorpyrifos are noted as toxic to bees – vitally important to pollination.

Fertilizers: Adding a little extra toxic fertilizer is a waste of money because when it rains, it goes down

the drain. Excessive fertilizer gets literally washed down the drain in rainstorms, contaminating our ponds, streams and well water – precious resources that cannot be easily replaced.

There are many books on natural gardening that afford lush, low maintenance lawns and colorful gardens without use of toxic synthetic chemicals. Also, consult with your local garden club or University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension Service for more information.

The health of Long Island Sound is also an economic issue for our businesses that thrive from its health. "Runoff" is an easy concept on the small scale, but did you know that polluted run-off travels for miles? With the sizable increase of building and large developments in Eastern Norwalk, there is more impervious surface

area than ever. This means that pollutant carrying run-off travels farther than before... making its way to the Sound in ever increasing lethal doses. Often it starts as the chemicals in our own yards.

What can you do? Reduce use of toxic substances by replacing them with natural solutions.

Check with the ENNA for more information.

Thanks to Diane Lauricella for this informative article.



Norden Place Development (UPDATE)

The developer's application for a zoning amendment to allow housing at the currently non-residentially zoned property at Norden Place was denied at the beginning of June at a Special Meeting of the Zoning Commission.

The month before the Conservation Commission had denied the proposal for 273 condominium units on

the site because the density of the planned development would in all likelihood negatively impact the wetlands and watercourses – on and off the site.

The developers can submit a new plan for housing and a new request for zoning change – but public hearings will again be scheduled by the

Conservation Commission and the Zoning Commission before any decisions are made.

The ENNA was a major force contributing to the outcome.

A watchful eye by citizens can move mountains.

Relevant newspaper articles are posted on our website.

Former Lea Manor/Fitch School (UPDATE)

Last year the developers for this property (73 Strawberry Hill Avenue) met with the ENNA to present their plan for housing – condos in a planned residential development (PRD). Most of the almost 50 residents who attended were opposed to the 26 condos proposed. The design was also unattractive and would not have fit in with the surrounding neighborhood.

At the beginning of June of this year the developers for

this property came back with a revised plan. The two adjoining properties (61 & 63 Strawberry Hill) are now included in the development area – and the proposal calls for 29 condominium units. The design has been substantially improved, replacing the parking lot fronting on Strawberry Hill with a buffer of lawn and landscaping. More attention has been given to creating an attractive streetscape.

The ENNA is again facilitating meetings between the developers and the neighbors so that residents have the opportunity to ask questions, offer suggestions and voice concerns.

The Zoning Commission is reviewing the plan. As before, a zoning amendment will be needed before the site plan for the PRD can be approved. Currently no more PRD units are permitted in B Residential Zones. The plans are being reviewed and public hearings will be scheduled.

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 below. 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.

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.

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



ENNA



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



We're on the Web!
See us at:

<http://eastnorwalk.org>

Who do you call?

VACANT OVERGROWN PROPERTY – SITE OF DUMPING, FIRE & BOMBING: Regular maintenance of the former Fitch School property has been neglected for long stretches of time since the property was vacated. Last year, Laurel Lindstrom (ENNA President) contacted the owners, resulting in at least occasional lawn mowing. This year, after more long periods of neglect, Senator Bob Duff got involved – and

the owners agreed to keep the property better maintained. Thanks to Bob for his assistance!

HELPFUL HINT: Customer Service Center at City Hall. This is a resource for citizens to keep in mind. It is the right place to register certain concerns within your immediate neighborhood. Information such as a toppled street sign, dumping

on a vacant lot, car parked on a front lawn, or perhaps a commercial truck regularly parked overnight on a residential street, can all be reported by calling 854-3200 or emailing customerservice@norwalkct.org.

(For broader or more significant neighborhood issues, please continue to contact the ENNA.)

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



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ADDRESS 2
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE