



## **Windsor Locks Preservation Association, Inc.**

*We're on the Right Track!*

With Spring rapidly approaching, our thoughts turn to warmer weather, flowers blooming and the smell of fresh cut grass. People will busy themselves with spring cleaning, day trips to the beach and vacations. My hopes are that our efforts to Save the Train Station are not forgotten, for a brief period of time.

With each passing month, our group's progress brings us closer and closer to our goal – to gain access and the eventual hope of ownership of this once proud structure. The group is continuing, daily, to grow. With each new member, our effort strengthens. And with each day, we realize how much our small town needed this.

In the past few weeks, I've been amazed to see how far word of our tiny Station has spread. When the day finally arrives that work can begin on the Station, we, as a group, will have so much to be proud of. And with all eyes on us, now more than ever, I believe we all want our efforts to succeed.

So, continue to pass the word, tell a friend or coworker, bring someone to a meeting or one of our events. And always remember how important our on going efforts are to everyone in our small town.

So, please, join with us and "Let's Save the Windsor Locks Train Station!"

Barbara Schley – President  
Let's Save the Windsor Locks Train Station  
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March 2005

### FUND RAISING COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Fund Raising Committee hosted a Wine Tasting Event and Silent Auction at the Windsor Locks Ramada Inn. The event was a lot of fun and featured wines from Sonoma Valley. Music was provided by Jean Nolan. Many items were generously donated by local businesses and people for the Silent Auction. 93 tickets were sold for the event. After costs, the group earned \$2,942.61. SPECIAL THANKS to Robin Veit and AnnMarie Claffey for a job well done!

There are several new events and fund raisers currently in the works. For the month of May, we will be celebrating Preservation Month in conjunction with the nationwide celebration to be hosted by Restore America. The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Preservation Flea Market will be held at Town Hall on May 14. To donate items or to rent a space for \$15.00 or for more information, please contact Martha Jarvis at (860) 623-4234.

June 3, we are hosting a Soprano's Dinner Theater to be held at Maneeley's Catering in South Windsor. This is an interactive show and should be a blast! Tickets are \$40.00 per person and will include dinner and the show. There will also be raffles for some great items. Doors open at 6pm for a Social Hour and the show starts at 7pm. For tickets or for more information, please call Barbara Schley at (860) 798-5376 or Barbara Carlson at (860) 654-1955.

We are looking for recipes for a cookbook which should be available sometime in the Fall 2005. Although many recipes have been collected, we still need a lot more. If you have recipes to donate, please contact Barbara Carlson at (860) 654-1955.

AnnMarie Claffey has prints of the pen and ink sketch of the Station. The original artwork was donated to the group by Suffield artist, Alice Williams. The prints are \$25.00 for matted and \$20.00 for unmatted. In addition to the prints, we have packages of 5 notecards with envelopes for \$5.00. All proceeds benefit our efforts to Save the Windsor Locks Train Station.

The next fund raising meeting is March 22, 2005 at 6pm at Alaimo & Barile on Main Street.

#### TRAIN STATION and GROUP PROGRESS

In early February, several members of the Train Station Committee met with Senior Aide, Michelle Gilman, from Senator Chris Dodd's office and John Rossi from Congressman John Larson's office. They came to view the site and speak with us about our ongoing efforts and future plans for the Station. After the meeting, we received strong letters of support from both Sen. Dodd and Con. Larson. Town First Selectman, Jeff Ives was also in attendance of the meeting and in mid February, Mr. Ives and the Board of Selectman pledged their support.

In mid February, Barbara Schley and Mickey Danyluk held a preliminary interview with Bill Faudee from Hartford Magazine. Mr. Faudee writes the Circa column for the magazine. Hartford Magazine has a large circulation and is available at most news stands. We were thrilled to get this kind of interest in our "small town" project!

The article will cover our group and the Train Station. The deadline is May 2005. It is scheduled to appear in the July 2005 issue. We will keep all of you posted as soon as we have final details.

March 2, the Train Station Committee met and the decision was made that the Association will pursue acquiring the Station. We hope to use it for a Community Center and Historical Display of town and railroad items. There will also be a memorial to the late Governor Ella Grasso.

#### FUNDING REQUESTS IN THE WORKS

Matt Udal from American Express Financial is our group's financial advisor. Since we obtained our non-profit status in late December, Matt has been diligently working on getting grant and fund requests completed. To date, Matt has applied for over \$1,000,000. of funding to be brought into the town for our use on the Train Station project. We expect that any day now, we'll hear from the first of the grant requests and hopefully it will be good news.

Our goal, to start, is to raise \$100,000.00 so that we can begin negotiations with Amtrak for the building and/or property. That amount would cover the cost of the fence that is required by Amtrak to keep anyone from gaining access to the train tracks. The approximate cost of the fence is \$65,000.00.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

As of today's date, the group continues to grow. We currently have about 120 members and many more volunteers. We are far ahead of our projected schedule for funding requests and professional studies of the Station. We are preparing the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual celebration of Preservation Month in our town. Our future looks brighter than even we anticipated! THANKS to ALL of you for your continued support and keeping us "On the Right Track!"

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SILENT AUCTION DONORS

The following people/businesses generously donated to make our Silent Auction on March 6 a huge success! Please make sure to patronize these businesses! They have a real interest in YOUR TOWN! Words aren't enough but THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KINDNESS!

Ramada Inn	Kupec & Sons Snow Plowing
Musco's Garage	Pier 1
Gay Veit	Autozone
Jean Nolan	Lucinda's
Czarnecki Photography	Gary Merrigan
Bob's Furniture	Joe Flynn
Jennifer Leahy	Scott's Sports
Road House Blues	Generations
Tammy McKay	George Mumblo
Park Plaza	Sue Montemerlo
Connecticut Distributors	Geissler's
Hands on Therapeutic Massage	Swede's Jewelers
Yellen Family	Helen McCloskey
Robin Veit	AnnMarie Claffey