

esna EXTRA

The Bulletin of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association

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ESNA Celebrates – We're Sweet Sixteen!

On Earthday, the sun, warm weather and president Barry Schneider came out to welcome those attending ESNA's 16th Anniversary annual meeting. New York City Council Member **Jessica Lappin** opened the program by thanking the East Sixties residents for their untiring efforts which have finally led to the landmarking of the two remaining City and Suburban buildings on York Avenue between 64th and 65th Streets. She also praised the members of ESNA for their involvement in getting a 197-A plan in place to create a new 24,000 sq. ft. park at the site of the former heliport on the river at 60th Street. Reinforcing the theme of the community's effort to grow the area's green space, Barry Schneider introduced Nanshik Yoon, Manhattan Chief of Operations of the Department of Parks, whose attendance at the meeting represented the City's support for the greening of the east sixties. Also in attendance at the meeting were Barry Klein for **State Assemblyman Jonathan Bing**, Jane Swanson for **Council Member Jessica Lappin**, Brice Peyre of **Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's** office and Amy Martinez-Miller representing **Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer** who had planned to join us but could not attend due to a death in his family.



Arriving in full regalia from the Greek Independence Day Parade, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney joined the meeting and thanked Barry and Judy Schneider, ESNA and Community Board 8 for all of their efforts in strengthening and improving the neighborhood's quality of life. She talked about the many accomplishments she has been able to achieve because of their support; for instance, bringing the Second Avenue Subway to a reality now that \$1.2 billion of combined state and federal funding has been secured plus the passage of the New York State Transportation Bond Issue for \$450 million. Other local issues she discussed were affordable housing and funding for affordable day care – a Kiddie Mac program. On the national level she reviewed port security, oversight of foreign investment to be balanced against economic development and other topical national issues she faces in Washington.

Returning to the local scene, Barry Schneider made the point that the ESNA area is not a bucolic suburban cul-de-sac – but rather a vibrant, active and diverse neighborhood not just of residents but of institutions, merchants and professionals who



support ESNA, many of whom were participating in the meeting by providing door prizes, information and take-away material. Among them were **Allstate Insurance, Apple Bank, Brasserie 360, Chase Bank, Classic**

Rug, Food Emporium, Lens Crafters, Linda Wexler Diet Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian Medical Center, Patsy's Pizzeria, Portofino Restaurant, Queensboro Hardware, Salon Capello Hair Stylist, Sam and Mike's Shoe Repair /Mike's Watch & Jewelry Repair and The Sports Club/LA – truly a cross section of the many ESNA "merchant" members.

Following the approval of minutes, introduction of the board members and those standing for election, Barry stated that ESNA Certificates of Appreciation would be awarded to **Michal Kushnir** and **Karen Artz Ash** of **Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLP**, the law firm that had assisted ESNA-CERT (our neighborhood's Community Emergency Response Team) on a pro bono basis to qualify for 501(c) 3 tax exempt status.



The program then turned to a demonstration by ESNA-CERT team members **Steffani Burd** and **Alan Leidner** of many of the simple items that alert residents should have in order to be prepared for an emergency – a land line jack telephone, hands free flashlight, non-battery powered wind up

radio, assembled first aid kits – and many more which can be found at www.campmor.com. Under the **All Together Now** program, ESNA-CERT's goal is to insure that all buildings have teams in place to assist residents in emergency situations. Toward that end, the group makes presentations and conducts training of teams. To have **All Together Now** representatives come to your building, contact ESNA and ESNA-CERT member Will Sanchez at the ESNA hot line, 212 7123-5826 or via e-mail at info@esna-nyc.net.

Next on the agenda was **Pete Fontana** of the U. S. Postal Service explaining the need for the ESNA area to become ZIP 10065 on July 1, losing its longstanding 10021 zip code. Having run out of available 4-digit extensions, it was now necessary for efficient sorting to create three separate zip codes from the one 10021 code. Mr. Fontana told the audience that residents would not have to notify magazine or utility companies about the change, that the service providers were responsible for implementing the change and that if someone continued to send mail using the 10021 code, the only impact would be delay in delivery and definitely not non-delivery. He also talked about other post office initiatives such as "click and ship" which are available at <http://pe.usps.com>. He then fielded many questions and unhappy comments about service at the Lenox Hill station, the removal of blue pick-up boxes from the local streets and the reduced pick up schedules for the remaining boxes. President Barry Schneider told the audience that ESNA



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ESNA needs you!

...to join our **Membership Committee** to retain and recruit members, to work with our **Beautification** volunteers to enhance the neighborhood and to assist in devel-



oping community information programs with our **City Services Committee**. You're the kind of community-minded person who can make a difference. Call us at 212 753-5826. Or send us an e-mail at info@esna-nyc.net. We're eager to help you turn your interest into **action!**

wanted to consolidate the individual problems and work with the post office to try to solve the problems. He encouraged people to communicate their issues to info@esna-nyc.net so that ESNA could work with post office officials to find solutions.

Schneider then turned to the map and detail of construction activity happening or planned in the neighborhood which appears as an insert with this edition of ESNA EXTRA. After reviewing the 15 sites, he added that the Phase 1 of the new waterfront park will be opening later this year; that the painting of the 59th Street Bridge is scheduled for completion in January 2009 and that upon completion of the water tunnel shaft at 59th Street and 1st Avenue and the water mains along 59th and 61st Streets, 14 Honey Locust Park will be restored in 6 years. He advised that the current plan for the water mains calls for them to be located on 59th and 61st Streets but that discussions were still underway with the Department of Environmental Development and things could change. He noted again that the ESNA neighborhood is growing and ever changing; that ESNA's role is to be involved in every step of that growth - to meet with developers, to consult with city agencies, to communicate the needs of all constituents and to mitigate the impact on our residents of the construction and infrastructure projects that are part and parcel of a growing vibrant diverse community. Barry concluded by saying everyone needs to be involved in whatever way they can to contribute to enhancing the quality of life in our neighborhood. Of immediate need is a group of volunteers to become "Friends of Tramway Park" to tend to that newly redesigned and rebuilt park to insure that it will be a beautiful oasis. To volunteer, contact Judy Schneider at info@esna-nyc.net.

A lively audience question and answer session focused on the following: The need for additional off-street vehicle parking to support increased population; impact of hospital construction on the FDR Drive esplanade; Hunter College's desire for the Julia Richmond space; the awful appearance of the low rise buildings on the corner of 62nd Street and Second Avenue; traffic congestion on York and 63rd; poor local bus service on 2nd Avenue, and even the need for longer gasoline hoses at the Mobil station at York and 61st Street. Mr. Schneider then noted briefly some other changes in the neighborhood:

CVS at 64th & 2nd will be installing a spiffy new glass and Duronotic metal wraparound façade. The ESNA Bulletin Board will be moved further west from the corner, toward Third Avenue;

Sherle Wagner, the luxury hardware and bath accessory retailer, had opened its flagship store at 62nd & 2nd ;

Sleepy's is now at the space formerly known as Decade, at 61st and 1st ;

Academia DeVino, a varied Italian-menu restaurant will open shortly at 64th and 3rd, at the site of old Mainland and Ollie's;

Continued at right

The Food Emporium Bridgemarket has undergone a multimillion dollar enhancement with a mezzanine tea room;

Alexico, the development company building the condominium at 67th and 1st, has leased space at the site of the former Manhattan Grille at 64th and 1st and will soon be opening a showroom and offices.

Mr. Schneider also welcomed the newly redesigned and much more community friendly Tramway Park at 59th – 60th and 2nd and urged the support of the Farmers Market/Flea Market at 67th between 1st and York, in the P. S. 183 schoolyard, to benefit the school's PTA.

The meeting ended with the drawing of door prizes. CERT Go Bags were won by Cynthia Harrison and Lynn Silberman; Naomi Perle won a four week membership to Linda Wexler's Diet Center; a Food Emporium Bridgemarket gift certificate went to Marianne Gill; Marie Strona won the Brasserie 360 gift certificate and Anita Barron walked off with the gift certificate to Portofino Restaurant.

--Joan Fabio



ESNA Salutes This New Commercial Member

Vita Health Apothecary

Join us at ESNA's 60th Street Summerfest



- Sunday, August 12, 2007
- Between Fifth and Madison Avenues
- 11 am – 5 pm
- Over 100 vendors, quality merchandise, food, art & crafts and antiques.
- And ESNA's fabulous "White Elephant" table.

Contributors: Joan Fabio, Lee Kaye, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

(Circle One)

Individual Coop/Condo Owner	\$25.00
Senior Coop/Condo Owner (65+)	\$20.00
Renter	\$15.00
Senior Renter (65+)	\$12.00
Townhouse Owner	\$50.00
Commercial/Business/Professional	\$50.00

Membership Dues Enclosed \$ _____

Contribution Enclosed \$ _____

ESNA's COMMITTEES (Circle those you want to join.)

- Beautification & Sanitation
- City Services
- Communications
- Fund Development & Social Activities
- Government & Community Relations
- Mailing & Distribution • Membership



Mail your payment to:

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