

esna EXTRA

The Bulletin of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association

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Prospects Brightening for Waterfront Park

A great deal has been going on in our community to improve the appearance of the area around the Queensboro Bridge. A community planning effort has been under way to “green” the area and to soften the hard concrete, stone and steel environment that surrounds where we live.

In the spring of 2002, Community Board 8 created a planning committee to address the area surrounding the Queensboro Bridge, from Second Avenue down to the river.

The project encompasses Tramway Park (the red brick plaza that houses the Roosevelt Island Tram at Second Avenue), the Bridge plaza, 14 Honey Locust Park on the 59th Street side of the bridge, between 2nd and 1st Avenues, and most importantly, the riverfront area from 59th Street to 63rd Street. This latter area is most exciting in terms of its potential.

The second level of Pavilion Park includes a dog run and a large seating area, crowned by a remarkable urban sculpture by Alice Aycock. The lower level will be opened to become an extension of the pedestrian/runners path that traverses northward along the East River Esplanade. From 60th to 63rd Street, a large segment of land will become available (after being vacated by the FDR detour) for development as parkland. Several options are being explored for this land along the riverfront and for the streetscape leading to it.

The planning committee, co-chaired by ESNA Executive Vice President Judith Schneider, obtained funding and has hired an urban planning, Buchhurst Fish Jacuqemart. In the past several months much research has been completed and preliminary plans have been developed. On Wednesday, March 9th the committee will hold a public hearing to present the plans to the Community Board and the community at large. The public will have an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. We urge you to come to the Hunter School for Social Work, 127 East 79th Street, at 7:00 PM, to see the plans being made for our neighborhood.

- Robert A. Van Kirk

Tsunami Relief – How You Can help

ESNA suggests you consider the AmeriCares Foundation if you are planing to contribute to the victims of the December 26, 2004 South Asia earthquake.

AmeriCares is a nonprofit disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization which provides immediate response to emergency medical needs for all people around the world, irrespective of race, creed or political persuasion. AmeriCares has mobilized emergency response teams and airlifts into Sri Lanka and India, with preparation underway for Indonesia. More than 170,000 people have died since the devastating earthquake and tsunamis hit these countries. Their aid focuses on providing essential medicines, medical supplies, personal care items and vital water purification treatments. Send checks to: AmeriCares Foundation, 88 Hamilton Avenue, Stanford, CT 06902. Telephone 1-800-486-HELP (4357).

A Summing Up

Buoyed by the presence of Mayor Bloomberg at our Annual Meeting in the spring, ESNA spent a very busy and productive summer and fall.

Our **Street Tree Bed Enhancement and Beautification Project** got under way with the installation of decorative steel enclosures and plantings in four bed on the east side of Second Avenue, between E. 61st and E. 62nd Street. With additional funding from City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, ESNA is preparing to beautify the five tree beds on the west side of Second Avenue between E. 64th and E. 65th Streets. Plantings will follow in the spring.



Another neighborhood enhancement project championed by ESNA this summer was the reconstruction of the pavements along the Queensboro Bridge ramps between 1st and 2nd Avenues from E. 61st to E. 62nd Street. Working with both the Department of Transportation and the Department of Parks and Recreation, ESNA was instrumental in having the severely deteriorated walkway totally repaved, seeing to it that new lighting was installed from the ramp above and having the Parks Department designate this area part of the **GreenStreets Program**. GreenStreets is a citywide program to convert paved, vacant islands and medians into green spaces filled with shade trees, flowering trees, shrubs, and groundcover. Again, this will be another spring initiative. ESNA will be working closely with Parks in the development of the site.



On August 15, ESNA held its **7th Annual Street Fair**. Scores of ESNA members and friends stopped by the ESNA table, located at the entrance to the street fair on 60th Street, between Fifth and Madison Avenues. The ESNA White Elephant Table was a huge success with lots of merchandise – books, video tapes, knickknacks, jewelry, small household appliances, and more, donated by many ESNA members. – finding new, happy homes. Mark your calendar now for our Street Fair in 2005. The date is

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ESNA Salutes These New Merchant Members

Commercial Enterprises
Mercedes Berk Ltd.
Starbucks Coffee

ESNA would like to welcome back the following Commercial and Merchant members who have renewed their memberships under new ownership:

New York City Bagels
Sushi Ichiban Japanese Restaurant

(Continued from front page)

Sunday, August 14, once again on E. 60th Street, between Fifth and Madison Avenues.

November 3rd **Anti-Noise Rally**. On a crisp fall morning, ESNA members and friends met at the corner of York Avenue and E. 63rd Street to demonstrate against the incessant horn honking that is the scourge of our neighborhood. Joined by officers of our local police precinct and representatives of our elected officials, the rally was a successful community and media event. (There was a



brief video on the 5 PM WNBC Channel 4 news that evening and a news article in the next day's Daily News.) With our placards held high, proclaiming "Noise Hurts – Don't Honk Your Horn", we watched with great satisfaction as Sgt. Reginald Henry and his team from the 19th Precinct issued a number of horn-honking summonses to surprised motorists whose rudeness turned to regret! Organized by our Councilmember Speaker Gifford Miller and supported by the League for the Hard of Hearing, the silent protest sent a clear message to the hundreds of drivers who passed that intersection during the two hours of our vigil.

Speaking of ESNA's strong ties to the NYPD and the 19th Precinct, the association was proud to present, along with other neighborhood associations, a special commendation award to



Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and to sponsor two "Cop of the Month" plaques to two officers who arrested two graffiti vandals in our area.

Once again, the fall calendar was brimming with ESNA activities:



The 13th Annual Clothing

Drive – On October 9th, five ESNA-member buildings collected some 3,000 pounds of gently used winter clothing and distributed it the same day to six local charities.

The Candidates Forum – Just nine days later, on the 16th, at the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House's Brooke Astor Auditorium, ESNA co-sponsored the debate among candidates for the State Assembly Districts 65 and 73, State Senate District 26 and the House of Representatives 14th District. The lively exchange between the candidates was followed by thoughtful questions from the audience, prompting equally reflective responses from the office holders and those seeking their seats.

The Carol Sing – On a relatively balmy December evening, ESNA members and friends gathered at the alcove at the Commerce Bank at Third Avenue and E. 64th Street to give voice to our holiday spirit. Accompanied by an adept trumpeter, the carolers entertained themselves as well as the many passers-by. Whether it



was the mild weather, the lusty voices, the brass horn or all of the above, ESNA received an unprecedented amount of toys and games. Four huge 55-gallon trash bags were filled to overflowing and delivered the next day to the Ambulatory Pediatrics Unit of NY Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. ESNA wishes to thank **YOU** for your overwhelming generosity!

Contributors: Lee Kaye, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider, Mark Schneider and Robert A. Van Kirk

ESNA Graduates 33 Community Emergency Response Team Members

On December 16, 2004, after more than 30 hours of training in such subjects as: disaster preparedness; fire safety; disaster medical operations—triage and treating life threatening injuries; light search and rescue; and terrorism and CERT, the 33 stalwart members of the ESNA CERT team received Certificates of Completion from the New York City Office of Emergency Management. A joyous celebration with friends, family members and our beloved FDNY trainers followed at the NY Blood Center.

ESNA embarked on this program of preparedness and response to serve our neighborhood. If a disastrous event were to overwhelm or delay the community's professional response, CERT members can assist others by applying the basic response and organizational skills that they learned during training. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives. CERT skills also apply to daily emergencies.

To learn more about emergency preparedness for yourself, your family, your apartment building or social group, please send an e-mail with a brief description of your interest to: info@esna-nyc.com

Your Blood Donation Urgently Needed

The New York Blood Center is in urgent need of blood donors to meet the demand for blood. Call 1-800-933-BLOOD (2566) to arrange an appointment for a safe, easy and life-giving donation. The NY Blood Center is located at 310 E. 67th Street.

And We Have a Winner!

ESNA's Fall Raffle was a great success - especially since an ESNA member won one of the prizes.

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce who sponsors the raffle for non-profit Eastside organizations allows us to use the funds from the sales of tickets to support important neighborhood projects such as sanitation, tree planting and maintenance, graffiti removal, and more.

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 \$ _____

(Please make check payable to esna, inc. and mail to address below.)