NWSI Residents and Staff Learn (and Teach) About Smart Growth in Seattle

Recently two Near Westside residents—Isaac Rothwell and Fanny Villarreal—joined Sheena Solomon of the Gifford Foundation, Maarten Jacobs of the Near Westside Initiative, and Steve Kearney of the City of Syracuse in Seattle, WA at a conference to learn about “smart growth” and sustainable communities.

The goals of smart growth are to achieve for America’s cities, towns, and neighborhoods a unique sense of community and place; an expanded range of transportation options; employment; housing choices; equal distribution of development costs and benefits; the preservation and enhancement of natural and cultural resources; and the promotion of public health.

The conference offered great information on tangible improvements that the Near Westside could make to create a more vibrant, walkable, and green neighborhood. Besides learning about smart growth, the Near Westside Initiative was able to share some knowledge with the conference. Ed Bogucz, NWSI Board Member and Executive Director of the Syracuse Center of Excellence, presented on how to certify a community as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) neighborhood. The Salt District of the Near Westside was the first in the nation to be awarded LEED certification for a pre-existing neighborhood. Conference attendees were impressed by all the work happening in the neighborhood and saw the initiative as a model for communities across the country.

After a great conference, those present were energized to take the information they learned back into the community. So be on the lookout for discussions and ideas on how to do even more to create a unique sense of community and place in our already wonderful neighborhood.
Business Profile: Douglas Lloyd Photography

If you ask recently married couples, new businesses, or aspiring actors and actresses where to go for high quality photographs, they will probably tell you to visit Douglas Lloyd. Lloyd has been working out of the Delavan Art Center for the past several years, and he has made quite a name for himself in the Central Upstate New York area and beyond.

Lloyd is no newcomer to photography. Unlike many who have taken up the business in recent years thanks to digital photography, Lloyd has been practicing his craft for more than two decades. “After purchasing my first used camera from a friend back in 1986, what began merely as a hobby quickly became an obsession,” he says. “The ability to stimulate the imagination through inventive imagery has always been important and fascinating to me.”

Located in a 1,200 square foot “loft-style” studio, Lloyd has created a space fully equipped with a dressing room, full styling salon, tons of camera and lighting equipment, and a digital processing space. There, he has produced images for everyone from local musicians to Fortune 500 corporations. He is no stranger to shooting on location either: he regularly shoots weddings and functions around the city as well as family portraits and corporate images.

Before your next big event or the annual family portrait, consider calling local businessman Douglas Lloyd. You can check out hundreds of images on his website at www.douglaslloydphotography.com. Contact Lloyd at 315.478.1356 or e-mail him at DouglasL@twcny.rr.com

Perfil de Negocios: Fotógrafo Douglas Lloyd

Si le pregunta a un recién casado, dueño de negocios, o artista donde ir para obtener fotografías de alta calidad, probablemente le recomiende a Douglas Lloyd. Lloyd tiene su estudio en el Delavan Art Center desde hace varios años y tiene muy buena reputación en el área central de Nueva York y sus alrededores.

Lloyd no es nuevo a la fotografía. En diferencia a otros que han comenzado recientemente con la fotografía digital, Lloyd lleva fotografiando más de dos décadas. “Después de comprar un amigo mi primera cámara en 1986, lo que comenzó como diversión se convirtió rápidamente en una obsesión,” dice Lloyd. “La habilidad para estimular la imaginación usando imágenes es importante y fascinante para mí.”

Localizado en un estudio de 1,200 pies cuadrados, Lloyd ha creado un espacio con facilidades de vestidores, salón de estilo, cantidad de equipos de luz y cámaras, y espacio para procesar imágenes digitales. Allí ha producido imágenes para muchos, desde grupos musicales locales hasta las más importantes corporaciones. Aparte de fotografiar en su estudio, Lloyd toma fotos en bodas y eventos en la comunidad, retratos familiares e imágenes corporativas.

Para su próximo evento importante o retrato de familia, considere llamar a Douglas Lloyd al 315.478.1356 ó por correo electrónico a DouglasL@twcny.rr.com. Puede ver cientos de fotos tomadas por Lloyd en su página Web www.douglaslloydphotography.com.

Don’t Let Tax Season Get You Down … Get Your Taxes Done For Free!  

¡No deje que las planillas lo agiten… Deje que se las llenen de gratis!

It’s the time of year again to get your records together and file your taxes. This year, don’t get stressed, and don’t pay a couple of hundred bucks to have them done. Instead, have them filed for free through the VITA tax prep program!

Starting now, and continuing through the beginning of April, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. will be hosting free tax services at 200 Wyoming Street. The program has helped thousands of people in Syracuse file their taxes for free over the last few years.

The service is completely confidential and is available to anyone making $49,000 or less annually. The program is entirely run by qualified volunteers who are fully trained and certified by the IRS. If interested, call 315.701.0790 to set up an appointment.

El servicio es totalmente confidencial y está disponible para cualquier persona que haya ganado $49,000 o menos este año. El servicio es ofrecido por voluntarios calificados, entrenados y certificados por el IRS (servicio de impuestos federales). Si está interesado, llame al 315.701.0790 para hacer una cita.
In the past few years the Near Westside of Syracuse has been seeing a steady rebirth. With the core mission of combining the power of art, technology, and innovation with local values and culture, the neighborhood is starting to truly blossom. The latest that is revealing itself as spring approaches is the renovation of the Lincoln Building, happening right now on Wyoming Street.

The Lincoln Building is a complete renovation of the 100-year old, four-story Lincoln Supply Warehouse into 30,000 square feet of mixed-used commercial and residential space. Floors one and two will contain first-class office space, and floors three and four are being transformed into 10 live/work artist lofts. The loft-style apartments are all roughly 1,100 square feet and all feature brand new appliances, large work areas, a high-quality kitchen spaces, in-unit washers and dryers. Ample on-site parking will be available.

The Lincoln Building features several green building technologies, such as energy-efficient geothermal heating and cooling, high efficiency fixtures and appliances, a revolutionary green screen to help cool the building, and storm water retention strategies that eliminate all site water from entering the city and county sewer systems. When complete in late July 2010, the Lincoln Building will apply for LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, and it will join the countless other great—and green—projects taking place all over the neighborhood. Keep checking www.saltdistrict.com for updates and leasing information.

Join Near Westside Residents Who Are on the Move

With 2010 underway, the Near Westside Initiative’s active residents committees are looking forward to another exciting year of projects and progress. Although NWSI has a burgeoning group of more than 70 residents coming together on a monthly basis, we are always trying to grow!

Come join your friends and neighbors every fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club on Shonnard Street. It is a time to connect with your neighbors, learn about what is going on in the neighborhood, and plan and prepare projects to help rejuvenate the community.

If you are interested in bettering the green spaces in our community, improving safety and housing, increasing employment opportunities, or working with youth, then the Residents Meeting is the place for you! Each committee is dedicated to one of these issues and is working hard to make a difference in the community. So join the group and learn more on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you then!

Apoye el movimiento “Residentes Activos del Near Westside”

En el comienzo del 2010, los comités de residentes activos de la Iniciativa del Near Westside están enfocados en otro emocionante año lleno de proyectos y progreso. Aunque la Iniciativa tiene un grupo de más de 70 residentes que se reúnen mensualmente, estamos interesados en seguir creciendo!

Venga a reunirse con sus amigos y vecinos el cuarto jueves de cada mes a las 6:30 P.M. en el Boys and Girls Club de la calle Shonnard. Es una oportunidad para conectar con sus vecinos, aprender sobre lo que está ocurriendo en la comunidad, planificar y preparar proyectos para ayudar a rejuvenecer la comunidad.

Si está interesado en mejorar los espacios verdes de nuestra comunidad, mejorar la seguridad y viviendas, aumentar las oportunidades de empleo, o trabajar con la juventud, ¡estas reuniones son para usted! Cada comité está dedicado a uno de estos temas y trabaja fuerte para hacer una diferencia en la comunidad. Sea parte del grupo y aprenda más sobre esto el jueves 25 de febrero a las 6:30 P.M. ¡Le esperamos!
Call for Action—Save Our School!

We need your help! The Near Westside Community on the Move is currently organizing students, parents, and neighborhood residents in support of the Blodgett School renovation project. This is our school, and the neighborhood needs to fight for its future together! All too often, local elected officials have ignored the needs of the Near Westside and its children, and that must change ... and with your help, it will.

Originally targeted for renovation under Syracuse’s Joint School Construction Board Program, Blodgett was dropped from the list of Phase I projects due to competing priorities. Fearing that this decision would result in the school’s closure, more than 600 residents, concerned parents, and community leaders lobbied to save the school. This lobbying resulted in a financial analysis conducted by the Joint School Construction Board that clearly recommended renovation over new construction as the most financially viable option for Blodgett. The Syracuse City School District has now developed a realistic, phased approach for renovating the facility but funds are needed to carry the project out.

However, that approach was discussed more than six months ago, and the school is still waiting for a decision to be made or action to be taken. It’s time for the neighborhood to come together with one voice once again in support of this important cause.

All are welcome to join the effort. The Near Westside Initiative is planning on developing a plan of action at the March 27 neighborhood meeting. Invite your friends, family, and anyone interested in learning more about Blodgett. All those interested in participating in this latest effort to save Blodgett are encouraged to contact Michael Short of the Near Westside Initiative at w.michaelshort@gmail.com or 315.308.0543.

Near Westside Initiative
Community Engagement & Economic Development
Syracuse University
The Warehouse-Room 405
350 W. Fayette Street
Syracuse, NY 13244-3050

Les pedimos su ayuda- ¡Salve nuestras escuelas!

¡Necesitamos su ayuda! La comunidad del Near Westside está movilizando estudiantes, padres y residentes para apoyar el renovación de la escuela Blodgett. ¡Esta es nuestra escuela y nuestra comunidad necesita apoyar su futuro! Frequentemente oficiales electos ignoran las necesidades del Near Westside y sus niños, y esto tiene que cambiar... y con su apoyo, esto va a cambiar.

La escuela Blodgett estaba originalmente programada para ser renovada bajo la Fase I del programa de la Junta de Syracuse de Construcción de Escuelas, y luego fue eliminada a causa de otras prioridades. Preocupados de que la escuela fuese a cerrar, mas de 600 residentes, padres y líderes de la comunidad, se reunieron para salvar la escuela. Este apoyo resultó en un análisis económico hecho por la Junta de Construcción de Escuelas donde claramente se demostró que la renovación de la escuela Blodgett es la mejor opción económica, en comparación a nueva construcción. El Distrito de Escuelas de la Cuidad de Syracuse ha desarrollado un plan realista para la renovación del edificio, pero se necesitan fondos para comenzar el proyecto.

Sin embargo, ese plan fue discutido hace más de seis meses y la escuela todavía está esperando una decisión o toma de acción. Es hora de que la comunidad se una otra vez para apoyar esta importante causa.

Todos están invitados a apoyar esta causa. La Iniciativa está planificando presentar un plan de acción en la reunión de la comunidad del 27 de marzo. Invite a sus amigos, familiares, y cualquier persona interesada en el futuro de la escuela Blodgett. Todos los interesados en participar en este reciente esfuerzo para salvar la escuela Blodgett deben contactar a Michael Short, representante de la Iniciativa, a través de w.michaelshort@gmail.com ó 315.308.0543.