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Near Westside Initiative

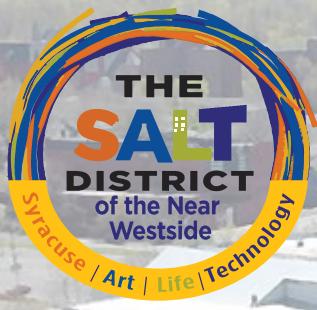
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Near Westside Initiative

NEWS/NOTICIAS

Monthly Newsletter • Vol. 1 No.8 • August 27, 2009 • Syracuse, New York

Welcome/ ¡Bienvenidos!

It's been a busy summer! The energy in the Near Westside is electrifying. In just a few short months, the Near Westside Initiative partnered with four local organizations to run summer youth work programs for Syracuse teens, sponsored a new public art installation featuring work done by city school students, installed the new SALT District pole banners, and participated in the dedication of the new state-of-the-art rain garden at the Walrath's house at 515 Tully. Even more exciting is that so many people are getting involved in making a positive change in the NWS. I'm looking forward to seeing all that we can accomplish together, as a community.

Jámos estados muy ocupados este verano! La energía en el Near Westside es excitante. En muy poco tiempo la Iniciativa del Near Westside se juntó con cuatro organizaciones locales para ofrecer cuatro programas de verano para jóvenes, patrocinó una instalación de arte público que muestra el trabajo de estudiantes del distrito escolar de Syracuse, instaló volantes del distrito SALT en los postes, y participó en la dedicación del magnífico jardín de lluvia en la propiedad de los Walrath, en el 515 de la calle Tully. Pero lo más excitante es ver tantas personas dedicadas a lograr mejoras en el Near Westside. Estoy ansiosa de ver todo lo que podemos lograr juntos, en comunidad.

—Marilyn Higgins, President of the Near Westside Initiative Board

Near Westside Collaborators Dedicate Green Infrastructure Project Colaboradores en el Near Westside dedican un proyecto de Infraestructura Verde

On Aug 11, the Syracuse Center of Excellence hosted a celebration marking the completion of a project demonstrating multiple approaches to reduce stormwater runoff. Examples of this "green infrastructure" include a rain garden, a green roof, permeable pavement, and rain barrels.

The project, installed at the home of Don and Helen Walrath at 515 Tully St., was the result of work by many collaborators including SyracuseCoE, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County (CCE), Home HeadQuarters (HHQ), and Onondaga Earth Corps youth, working under the guidance of CCE educators.

Speaking at the event were Syracuse Mayor Matt Driscoll; State Senator David Valesky; BJ Adigun, Director of Public Affairs for the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection; Ed Bogucz, Executive Director, SyracuseCoE; Marilyn Higgins, President, Near Westside Initiative; Kerry Quaglia, Executive Director, HHQ; and



Anastasia Urtz, Executive Director, CCE. In addition, Chief Sid Hill, Tadodaho (spiritual leader) of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy delivered a short version of the traditional Thanksgiving Address and Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation, spoke in support of the values of sustainability this project demonstrates. Homeowners Don and Helen Walrath were recognized for graciously allowing the project to take place at their home.

**Next Meeting: August 27, 2009
Neighborhood Picnic at Skiddy Park**

6-8pm: Rain or Shine

Committee leaders:
Greenspace Committee/ Espacios Verdes – Renee Neal Allen

Housing/ Viviendas – Alys Mann

Employment/ Empleos – Magaly Nobles

Seniors/ Envejecientes – Mary Alice Smothers

Youth/ Jóvenes – Brenda Castillo

Safety/ Seguridad- Rashid Oliver

Arts/ Artes – Sameerah Aiken-Owens & "Koolie D" aka Carlos Rivera Jr.

For more information, call Sheena Solomon at 474.2489, ex. 16. Si está interesado en participar, favor de presentarse a la próxima reunión o llamar a Sheena Solomon (474-2489 x16) o Ana Fernández (443-8779).

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El 11 de agosto, el Centro de Excelencia de Syracuse (SyracuseCoe) mantuvo un evento para conmemorar un proyecto demostrando varia maneras de controlar la escorrentía de aguas de lluvia. Este tipo de controles, llamados infraestructura verde, incluyen un jardín de lluvia, techo verde (con plantas), pavimento permeable, y barriles de lluvia.

Este proyecto fue instalado en la propiedad de Don y Helen Walrath, en el 515 de la calle Tully, y fue el resultado de una colaboración entre el SyracuseCoE, la Extensión Cooperativa

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Artist Profile: Phil Parsons

Perfil de artistas: Phil Parsons

Tucked away in his third floor studio at the Delavan Center in the Near Westside, Phil Parsons quietly prepares to show his newest collection at the Delavan Gallery in September. His latest work—on display starting Sept. 10—will feature more than two-dozen traditional Central New York landscapes.

"This is my first foray into a more traditional way of painting," Parsons says. "My most recent work is meant to promote what I see as the real Central New York, a rural community."

A native of CNY, Parsons is very familiar with what he regards as the area's natural beauty. And in the last two and half years, Parsons has attempted to capture that beauty in his work. Each landscape can take up to six months to complete. "The paintings can take three days to look finished but six months to actually get done," he clarifies.

"This collection was difficult because I've always seen myself as more of a contemporary artist," Parsons says. After more than two years of working on his collection of landscapes, Parsons says he's ready to get back to his more contemporary style. Parsons describes his decorative and interior art as his "real job," and this work has been featured in national publications such as Traditional Home Magazine.

"You have to be passionate about where you are and what you're doing," Parsons adds. "I love working in the artist-rich environment at the Delavan, and you can't find a better place to raise kids than in Central New York."

Youth Explore Careers Related to NWS Programs, Businesses

Jóvenes exploran carreras relacionadas a programas/negocios del "Near Westside"

Food Works, Art Works, and Green Works are three programs that have engaged with the Near Westside Initiative this summer to offer young people from the city a chance to learn, explore, and work in the fields of food production, art, and sustainability. The programs were created by CNY Works and Paul Nojaim, of Nojaim Brothers Inc. and a NWSI Board Member.

"We want to expose these young people to careers and foster their interest in the opportunities that the Initiative will create as part of the sustainable urban revitalization of the Near Westside," explains Nojaim. Specifically, Art Works offers youth who have expressed an interest in art-related careers a chance to explore dance, music, painting, and other creative disciplines. Partners for Arts Education is running this program.

Food Works teaches food and nutrition, the cultural value of food, farming, transportation, wholesale and retail marketing, and manufacturing to those who have interest in food- or nutrition-related careers. Food Works is led by Nojaim Bros.

Green Works, which introduces youth to concepts in renewable energy and emerging technologies, is being taught by staff from SUNY-Morrisville.



Escondido en su estudio en el tercer piso de la Galería Delavan en el Near Westside, Phil Parsons se prepara para mostrar su nueva colección. Sus obras más recientes estarán a la vista comenzando el 10 de septiembre en la Galería Delavan. Estas incluyen más de dos docenas de paisajes tradicionales de Nueva York central.

"Este es mi primer intento en pintura tradicional," dice Parsons. "Mis nuevas obras promueven lo que veo en el área central de Nueva York, una comunidad rural."

Parsons, quien es nativo del área, está muy familiarizado con la belleza natural de Nueva York central. En los últimos dos años ha tratado de capturar esa belleza en sus obras. Cada paisaje puede tomar hasta seis meses. "Las pinturas pueden tomar tres días para completar pero lograrlas puede tomar hasta seis meses," explica.

"Esta colección fue difícil porque mi estilo siempre ha sido contemporáneo," dice Parsons. Despues de mas de dos años trabajando en estos paisajes tradicionales, Parsons dice que esta listo para regresar a su estilo contemporáneo. Su verdadero trabajo es arte decorativo y para interiores. Sus obras han sido expuestas en publicaciones nacionales, tales como "Traditional Home Magazine."

"Uno debe sentir pasión por lo que hace y donde lo hace," añade. "Me encanta trabajar en el ambiente artístico de la Galería Delavan, y no se puede encontrar mejor lugar para criar niños que Nueva York central."

Youth Explore Careers Related to NWS Programs, Businesses

Jóvenes exploran carreras relacionadas a programas/negocios del "Near Westside"

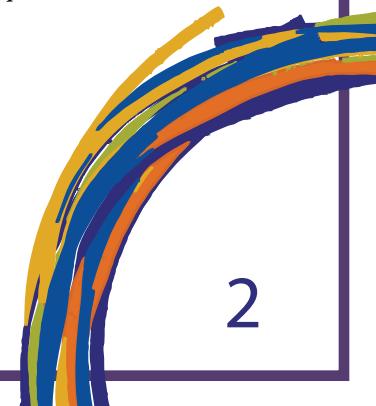
"Food Works," "Art Works," y "Green Works" son tres programas que están colaborando este verano con la Iniciativa del Near Westside para ofrecer a los jóvenes de la ciudad la oportunidad de aprender, explorar y trabajar en los campos de producción de comestibles, arte, y desarrollo sostenible, respectivamente. Estos programas fueron creados por CNY Works y Paul Nojaim, de Nojaim Brothers, Inc., y miembro de la junta de la Iniciativa.

"Queremos exponer estos jóvenes a posibles carreras y aumentar su interés en oportunidades que la Iniciativa vaya creando como parte de la revitalización sostenible del Near Westside," dice Nojaim.

"Art Works" le da la oportunidad a jóvenes que han expresado interés en las artes a explorar música, baile, pintura, y otras artes creativas. "Partners in Arts Education" dirige este programa.

"Food Works" enseña alimentación y nutrición, el valor cultural de las comidas, agricultura, transportación, mercadeo al por mayor y al detal, y manufactura, a jóvenes que han expresado interés en carreras relacionadas a alimentos o nutrición. "Food Works" es dirigido por Nojaim Brothers, Inc.

"Green Works," dirigido por personal de SUNY-Morrisville, presenta a los jóvenes los conceptos de energía sostenible y tecnologías nacientes.



A Blooming Good Idea—St. Lucy's Community Garden Plantando Ideas—El Jardín Comunitario de St Lucy

The community garden at St. Lucy's Church on Gifford Street—a youth- and community-driven project—educates about sustainable urban environments by offering experience in hands-on organic gardening, as well as cooking and nutrition.

A dedicated team from St. Lucy's maintains and cares for the garden on most Saturdays. These volunteers have been working hard to grow a beautiful, productive garden this year.

According to Emily Nisco-Frank—one of the group's founders—the community garden nurtures youth and community in the Near Westside in a number of ways: "We involve youth as leaders as gardeners and builders, by teaching and empowering them to grow flowers, herbs, fruits, and vegetables. Our only rules in the garden are, first, To walk in beauty, and second, Thou shall not plant without youth."

Continues Nisco-Frank, "By growing and providing organic and healthy food, we seek to increase access to fresh produce for those who live in the neighborhood, and neighborhood produce stands will provide affordable organic produce."

Nisco-Frank explains that Community Garden events build skills, relationships, collaborations, and community and offer educational opportunities in a multigenerational setting. Events include community meals and celebrations that offer samples of foods prepared with fresh vegetables, fruits, and herbs.

"Cooking and nutrition classes will be held in the food pantry and kitchen across the street from the church" adds Nisco-Frank. "All can find a place of natural beauty and a spirit of calm and peace as they work, rest at, or visit our Community Garden."



El jardín comunitario de la iglesia St Lucy en la calle Gifford es un proyecto guiado por jóvenes y la comunidad. Aquí se aprende como vivir de manera sostenible en un ambiente urbano, jardinería orgánica, cocina, y nutrición.

Un dedicado grupo de voluntarios de St Lucy cuidan el jardín casi todos los sábados. Estos voluntarios han trabajado fuerte este año para lograr un jardín hermoso y productivo.

Emily Nisco-Frank, una de los fundadores, dice que el jardín ayuda a los jóvenes y a la comunidad de varias maneras: "Tratamos de aumentar el acceso a alimentos frescos y saludables en el vecindario. Además, podremos vender productos orgánicos a precios razonables en la comunidad."

Según Nisco-Frank, eventos relacionados al jardín comunitario ofrecen la oportunidad para desarrollar habilidades, establecer relaciones, colaboración, y sentido de comunidad en un ambiente que incluye varias generaciones. Tales eventos incluyen

comidas comunitarias y celebraciones que ofrecen un muestrario de comidas preparadas con vegetales, frutas, y hierbas frescas.

"Ofreceremos clases de cocina y nutrición en el salón comedor al otro lado de la calle la iglesia," dice Nisco-Frank. "Todos pueden disfrutar de un sitio de belleza natural, paz espiritual y calma mientras trabajan, descansan, o visitan nuestro jardín comunitario."

Gearing Up for Change: Rick Destito and the Gear Factory Haciendo el cambio: Rick Destito y la Fábrica de Engranajes



Rick Destito owns the five-story historic Gear Factory warehouse building in the Near Westside. And if you're an artist, artisan, or musician, this renovated live/work space will be the building for you.

The top three floors of the renovated structure will have affordable live/work studios and lofts; the second floor will house a number of studios; and the ground floor will provide space for exhibits and performances. The basement will host practice spaces for up-and-coming bands, and the rooftop garden will be the place for creative exchanges among tenants.

Destito says his vision for the Gear Factory has received overwhelming support. "Currently in Syracuse there seems to be plenty of artists and musicians, but almost no art or music studio spaces available,"

he explains. "From what I've heard in talking with other people involved with the arts in this community, it takes as much as two years to get into a gallery to show your work. Plus, there are no medium-size music venues, and there is a need for approximately 300 live/work units in Syracuse."

"I'm not just renovating a building," Destito continues. "I know that for my place to do

well, the places around me have to do well. For this reason I'm very involved in the community, in Syracuse Public Arts and Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today."

Rick Destito es dueño del edificio histórico de la antigua fábrica de engranajes en el Near Westside. Y si usted es un artista, artesano, o músico, el espacio renovado en el

edificio puede ser suyo para vivir/trabajar.

Los tres pisos superiores de la estructura renovada serán apartamentos a precios moderados para vivir/trabajar. El segundo piso tendrá espacio para estudios, y en el primer piso habrá espacio para exhibiciones y ensayos. Bandas de músicos podrán practicar en el sótano. En el techo habrá un jardín que proveerá un ambiente creativo para conversaciones entre los inquilinos.

Destito dice que su visión para la nueva Fábrica de Engranajes ha recibido mucho apoyo. "Actualmente en Syracuse hay muchos artistas y músicos, pero casi no hay estudios disponibles para música o arte," dice Destito. "Hablando con otras personas envueltas en la comunidad artística, he oído que puede tomar hasta dos años para mostrar sus obras en una galería. Además, no hay sitios de mediana capacidad para músicos, y se necesitan aproximadamente 300 unidades para vivir/trabajar en Syracuse."

"Para lograr que mi visión de resultados, no puedo renovar este edificio solamente sin atender a los alrededores," dice Destito. "Por eso estoy muy envuelto con la comunidad, el grupo de artes públicas en Syracuse, y el grupo Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today."

Home HeadQuarters, Volunteers Blitz Otisco Street Voluntarios y Home HeadQuarters dan la batalla en la calle Otisco

Home HeadQuarters organized more than 100 people for its annual Neighborhood Block Blitz, making improvements to properties along the 400 block of Otisco Street, as well as the 700 block of North Townsend Street in Syracuse's Northside.

Employees from local businesses and nonprofit organizations helped to spruce up the Near Westside properties, and local contractors donated more than \$70,000 in services and materials. Work done included planting flowers, replacing porches, painting homes, and trimming hedges.

This was the second annual Home HeadQuarters Block Blitz, an alternative to the group's traditional annual fundraising dinner. Other organizations involved included Syracuse Center of Excellence, Hueber-Breuer Construction, Lostumbo Paving, Murtaugh Restoration, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Cooperative Federal Credit Union, and King & King Architects.



Home HeadQuarters organizó mas de 100 personas para su evento anual de ataque a un bloque del vecindario. El evento produjo mejoras en el bloque 400 de la calle Otisco y el 700 de la calle North Townsend, en el Northside de Syracuse.

Empleados de negocios locales y organizaciones sin fines de lucro ayudaron a mejorar las propiedades en el Near Westside.

Contratistas locales

donaron mas de \$70,000 en servicios y materiales. Las mejoras incluyeron trabajo de jardinería, pintura, reemplazo de un balcón y poda de matas.

Este fue el segundo año que Home HeadQuarters organizó este plan de batalla. Este año, el evento reemplazó la cena tradicional para recaudación de fondos. Otras organizaciones involucradas en el evento fueron el Centro de Excelencia de Syracuse, la Universidad Médica de Upstate, la Cooperativa de Crédito Federal, y la firma de arquitectos King & King.

Continued from Page 1

de Cornell en el Condado de Onondaga (CCE), Home HeadQuarters (HHQ), y el grupo de jóvenes "Onondaga Earth Corps" bajo la tutela de educadores del CCE.

Los oradores durante el evento fueron Matt Driscoll – Alcalde de Syracuse; David Valesky – Senador, Estado de NY; BJ Adigun – Condado de Onondaga, Departamento de Protección de Aguas; Ed Bogucz – Director Ejecutivo, SyracuseCoe; Marilyn Higgins – Presidente, Iniciativa del Near Westside; Kerry Quaglia – Director Ejecutivo, HHQ; y Anastasia Urtz – Directora Ejecutiva, CCE.

E Jefe Sid Hill, Tadodaho (líder espiritual) de la Confederación Haudenosaunee, ofreció una versión abreviada de la oración tradicional de Acción de Gracias. Oren Lyons, Protector de la Fe de la Nación Onondaga, habló en apoyo de los valores de sostenibilidad demostrados en este proyecto. Los dueños, Don y Helen Walrath, fueron públicamente agracidos por permitir que se hiciera este proyecto en su propiedad.



Oren Lyons, faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation, addresses the crowd at the dedication of the rain garden demonstration project at 515 Tully Street. With Lyons are, from left, Kerry Quaglia, Al Stirpe, BJ Adigun, Ed Bogucz, Sid Hill, and youth from the Onondaga Earth Corps.

Near Westside Initiative

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