



# Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood Association

February, 2008

202 Lewiston Avenue, Willimantic, CT 06226

WWW.VictorianWillimantic.org

## Neighborhood News

### **Kudos** By Bob Horrocks

It may be time to review all that has recently happened and is going to happen in Willimantic, and to recognize those who have been working diligently to support arts & entertainment initiatives as well as the town's economic development. Admittedly, the Chronicle and Reminder newspapers do a commendable job of keeping us informed. Although some media often report bad news, the Chronicle has a reputation of providing complimentary advertising and reviews of special events and activities that reflect the vibrant nature of our community. In case you haven't read about it in the Chronicle, Courant or Reminder newspapers, here are some of the recent and future happenings and activities of which I am aware.

#### **Arts & Entertainment**

- Soroptomist Ball (Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>) at the Elks Club. A wonderful event. Kudos to the Soroptomists and their mission of helping young ladies.
- The Snow Ball (Feb 9<sup>th</sup>) at the Windham Mills. A formal gala attended by more than 230 people, including many from out-of-town, to benefit the Mill Museum and Visitor's Center. Kudos to the Snow Ball committee.
- Burton Leavitt Theater production of the "The Odd Couple" (February showings).
- Chocolate Festival (Feb 14-17<sup>th</sup>), an expansion of the original one-day event. More than 35 businesses participated in 20 various events. Kudos to Ruth Alumbaugh-Hartunian, committee chair.
- Lynn White was crowned Willimantic's Cupid for 2008 (Feb 14<sup>th</sup>). Kudos to the Recreation Department.
- Seven Arts/Crafts galleries participated in (Feb 14<sup>th</sup>) a downtown arts stroll. Kudos to Windham Area Arts Collaborative.
- Chocolate Lovers Affair & Romantic Broadway show. Capitol Theater (Feb 15<sup>th</sup>).

- The Annual Blues Festival (Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>) at the Elks Club to benefit the Third Thursday Street Fest events. Kudos to the Renaissance Organization.
- Irish Music & Dance Festival (Feb 28<sup>th</sup>) at Eastern's Student Center (Tipton Room). Kudos to Eastern for this free community event.

#### **Development**

- Opening of OPUS Restaurant on Main Street.
- Potential of two Starbucks Coffee Shops. One across from Walmart Plaza; one at the ACCESS Agency Plaza.
- Potential development of Benny's on Main Street by a South Windsor company.
- Potential addition of a grocery store moving into the former Walgreens building (Access Agency Plaza).
- Hiring of a full-time Code Enforcement Director. Good luck to Matt Vertefeulle.

It is often difficult to keep up with town happenings and to follow the progress of economic development efforts. It is important to remember that behind each event and each new economic venture there are people or groups of people working and volunteering to make things happen. I stopped to reflect on the number of people involved in the many events, activities, and organizations that have attracted my attention and involvement. When I considered the monthly meetings of the six organizations and event planning sessions I have attended during the past month it was not surprising that I have been in discussion with more than 100 different people, each focused on a project that serves to advance Windham/Willimantic. So, thanks to those town workers and volunteer citizens who have devoted time and energy to the myriad projects that make our town a vibrant community.

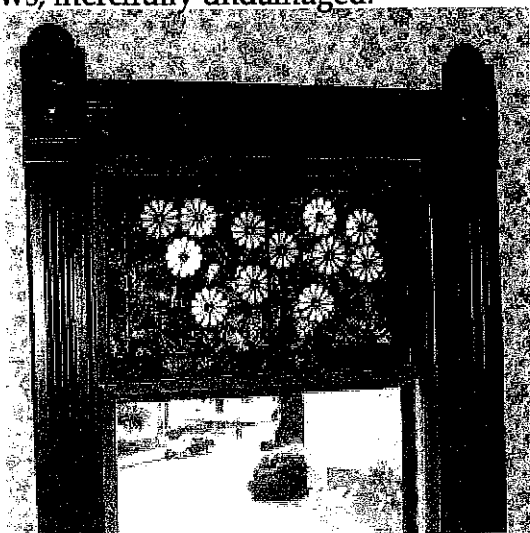
# Stained Glass Galore

Current owner, Christel Donahue had wanted to buy the Taylor-Hatheway house when she & Mark moved to Willimantic 17 years ago. Concerns about a shared driveway intervened, so the couple bought the Larabee House (on the Home Tour 1999) at 55 Prospect St. instead of this Queen Anne at 191 Prospect Street.

Alas, the former children's library subsequently fell into disrepair during its days as student rental units until it was rescued by Ray Pierce. Ray devoted countless hours to painstakingly repair the damage and revive the mansion's grandeur. Visitors who had remembered it as the children's library during the 1950s & '60s were delighted to see his work in progress during the 2002 Home Tour. Unfortunately, Ray was disappointed in his tenants and agreed to lease the house to the Donahue's with an option to buy.

Ironically, Christel and the shared driveway owner, none other than WVNA board member & legal consultant Charlie Krich, became "partners in crime", swapping furniture and ideas; scouting antique shops; and sharing eBay tips. To top it off, she found wallcovering that matched the hearth tiles, and a black background pineapple pattern which was destined to welcome diners in the dining room. That did it! They'd simply have to buy the house, which they did in 2005.

Perched up off the street, its architecture and position are commanding. Exterior features include a 3-story tower, wrap-around front porch, 2 glassed-in porches and gorgeous stained glass windows, mercifully undamaged.



From the 2 sets of double glass and wood doors leading into the foyer, to the herringbone parqueted floors, to the beveled-mirror fireplace, this 1891 home is truly spectacular. The 14 leaded stained glass windows, particularly the lower & upper west windows are a treasure. Each one is accented by the rich rosetted beaded molding which surrounds it.

The windows in most of the rooms are accented with stained glass panels at the top. Each room has a different colorful design. The large stained glass windows on the stair landing are l'oeil de boeuf pattern, and there's a stunning daisy pattern (see photo) in the foyer. The latter, the Donahue's favorite, is especially dazzling in mid-afternoon when the western sun highlights the emerald, gold and amber tones.

The main floor has three distinctly different fireplaces and three totally different style archways, not to mention other double doorways with walnut facings on one side and oak on the other. The house's 52 doors and 88 windows contribute to the bright atmosphere that pervades throughout.

Christel's talent as a decorator and her interest in Chinese accoutrements are evident everywhere. She has succeeded in transforming the house to its Victorian splendor. When we stepped into the parlor with its adjoining unique tower room we were momentarily transported to the age of elegance. Oriental rugs, velvet love seat, massive mahogany pieces, lush greenery, rich upholstery wallcovering capped with



tassels, crown molding, spicy red painted wall & ceiling, original woodwork, wooden rockers, stained glass & filtered sunlight combine to create an authentic late 19th century ambiance.

The same can be said for the dining room with its stately fireplace, mantel, tiles and huge scrolled mirror. Two of Christel's collection of impressive Chinese Foo dogs (to ward off evil spirits) are on display, along with a magnificent, large, burlled mahogany china cabinet filled with cut glass stemware. A wonderful pantry loaded with glassed cupboards, drawers and shelves is conveniently located between this room and the large kitchen with its massive island and open brick fireplace which is soon to be rebricked for cooking.

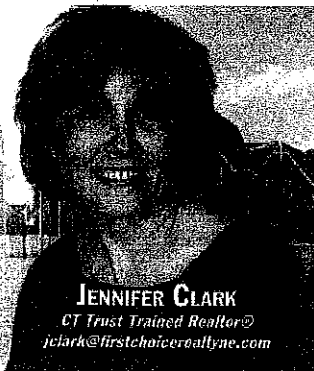
In addition to the cosmetic transformation, the Donahues have made many structural improvements in the three short years they have been owners. There are new gutters, boiler, cedar shakes up to the 2nd floor, moisture-proof basement and upgraded electrical system. It's easy to imagine how Christel's flair for color will transform the home's exterior when they eventually undertake the Herculean task of painting it. We look forward to that day. In the meantime, you can visit this terrific home, along with shared driveway friend Charlie's home, on the 2008 Home Tour. Both mansions are must-sees.



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## Romantic Willimantic Trivia

From time to time, as space permits, we will include a new column which will attempt to tease and challenge our readers with trivia questions related to Willimantic from Victorian times to the present. Answers will be provided elsewhere in the newsletter. As always, feedback or additional stumpers are welcome. Many of the questions came from a game developed in 1986 by the Windham Federation of Teachers and social studies students at Windham High School. Thanks also to Bette and Gordon MacDonald who lent us the game.

Test your memory!

1. What were the three Main Street locations of the Hoot before it moved to East Brook Mall in 1975?
2. How many pharmacies/drug stores were there on Main Street between High St and Jackson Streets until the 1960s?
3. What city street had no houses on it until 2005?
4. What street in Willimantic would be good to drink?
5. What was introduced into the town in 1887?
6. In what year did American Thread Company begin in Willimantic?
7. Where were Windham High School dances held prior to Case Gym?
8. What 1st Selectman led the town in the battle to consolidate Windham & Willimantic governments?
9. What are the two nicknames for Willimantic?
10. When did WILI first go on the air?
11. What store had the first public elevator?
12. How many streets are named after trees?
13. Where did much of the stone used in the construction of the early Willimantic mills come from?
14. What former Windham High School teacher was the sister of one U.S. Senator and the aunt of another?
15. The old Gem Theater was never torn down. What is located at the site today?

Please see page 10 for the answers.

## Welcome to the Neighborhood



**Contributing Member**

Mary Lou Devivo

Willimantic

## Meeting Dates & Hosts

**February 24**

Marian & Bob Wolf

185 Walnut St.

**\*March 30**

Teri & Leo Santuci

74 Windham St.

**April 27**

Claire & Doug Lary

183 Summit St.

**\*May 25**

Richard Bloomer & JM Schold

272 Prospect St.

**\*June 22**

Doe Hentschel

232 North St.

\* Please note date changes

## Need a Handyman ?

The following men have provided very good service to members of the WVNA:

Rob DeVoss • 208 - 2123

Fred Massey • 450 - 1133

Jim Sylvia • 428-3107

# ECSU Student Community Service

For the past several years, homeowners in the Hill Section have been justifiably concerned about the influx of ECSU students as renters in large, one-family homes.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day service project that benefitted students at Windham High School

Anyone who has been a neighbor can attest to the very real problem of rowdy behavior; loud, disruptive parties into the wee hours; and disregard for decorum and property. Fortunately, the university's administration has been extremely sympathetic and increasingly proactive in their attempts to quell the inappropriate disregard for the quality of life of neighboring residents. President Nuñez, Dean Bedini, and Judicial Officer Kim Silcox have made it clear to the students, their parents, and landlords that such disruptions reflect poorly on the university and will not be tolerated.

Readers should know that this aggravation represents a very small percentage of the student body and often involves young people who are away from home for the first time.

Despite all of this, or, perhaps because, we'd like to share with our readers how proud we are of the ECSU students who truly do represent the school's mission. Not enough Willimantic folks know about the activities of the great students we've been privileged to encounter. Let's begin with all the volunteers who have filled various roles at Windham Textile & History Museum. An intern at that facility is receiving community service learning while providing a service to the museum.

How about the graphic arts students who have contributed to the design of our web site, created a unique frog for Town Hall, and assisted elementary school students in the creation of banners? And we'll bet that most residents are not aware that Eastern students have established after-school programs to provide tutoring & enrichment for elementary school

kids.

Which brings us to an exemplary project called "People Helping People." This group deserves praise for its highly successful Thanksgiving Day of Giving Dinner for 300 people in the community. Its success surpassed expectations. Evan & Nathan, along with 30 or so students, are actively trying to make a difference in the lives of their community compatriots. Mentoring grade-school students in the arts, sports, and social activities; fundraising for the No-Freeze Shelter; developing projects with the aged at the Card Home & St. Joseph's Living Center; and assisting at Kids Folk Style Wrestling Tournament, for example.



Students at Day of Giving event that fed over 300 hungry and homeless individuals and families at Thanksgiving.

And did many of you meet the delightful students who greeted guests at the Snow Ball? Gustav from Sweden, Axel from Paris, Sina from Germany, Viktorya from Turkmenistan, and Lindsay and Meredith from Connecticut? Other outgoing number of students were on hand to assist at the Chocolate Festival. Talk about good ambassadors!

Some skeptics might attribute all of this goodwill to the school's required 4 hours of community service. Look more closely, folks. What these young people do goes far beyond what initially may have been a requirement. The scope of the commitments would indicate a sincere connection to our local community.

And, speaking of requirements, we were surprised to learn that students living off campus have no community service requirements. We wonder why the most visible students are exempt from the invaluable experience of becoming involved in a positive way with their neighbors.

To learn more about the meaningful community service and volunteer opportunities that the students are committed to, contact John or Martin at 465-0684.

People Helping People is making a difference and ECSU students are earning our respect and gratitude.

# Craftsman Interviews

By Bruce Bellingham

On the night of November 21, 2006, one of Willimantic's finest Victorians suffered a major fire. The following is a series of interviews conducted then and a year later when the restoration and repair of the house was almost complete. Bruce interviews owners Leslie O'Brien and Tony Kydd.



BB: As we move up to the 2nd floor, tell me what you have changed up here.

LO: Well, we made some changes to the back hallway and lowered the ceiling so that we could lower the floor above in the attic in order to install a shower and bath. But the more major alteration is in the master bedroom. The spare room was small, and the fire removed the wall (beside the chimney), and so we looked at it after the fire and thought that a solution was facing us: absorb it into one big master bedroom. We also thought, along with Richard Sherman, that transoms could be installed so that more light would enter the central corridor and the bedrooms.

BB: And they look like they are architecturally-retrieved windows.

LO: Yes, from Greg Renshaw in Putnam. They came from the same era as the house and the color scheme matches that of the other stained-glass windows. It just seems meant to be.

BB: Those are serendipity issues, aren't they? Everything comes into focus and can be adapted.

LO: That happened many times to us throughout all of this work. We have come to believe that there is something out there bigger than all of us.

BB: I spoke with the tile installer who works for John French. By the way, I noticed that you tried to use local people as much as you could. Here you have had traditional marble Victorian "beehive" hexagonal small-tile floors put in.

And here in your upstairs bath is a beautiful ball and claw bathtub!

LO: That came from Greg Renshaw as well. Rich Sherman, Chuck Funk, and I went up to his warehouse for the day. We found the doors, the windows that are now transoms – and as we were walking out, here was this 6-foot-long tub sitting in the parking lot. We got a great price on it because I think Greg was so appreciative of what we were doing to restore our house; and he told us where we could have it refinished. Just this morning, Chuck and Dave Little took out the windows up here on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor so that the tub could be lifted through and installed.

BB: There were servants' quarters up here – a bedroom and a small bath at the top of the back "servant's stairs" – which you have now adapted.

LO: I never thought that our old bathroom was small until we had the baby. I always dreamed since we bought the house in 1999 that we should get a laundry room up here. As Chuck says — "here's an opportunity."

That's his favorite word! One of the original elements we wanted to restore was the Victorian bathroom tiles. We could have used ceramic, but we wanted to keep the marble tiles, but it was not cheap.

BB: Of course, having the laundry room close to your young child's room makes sense. The other elements you insisted on keeping were the door and window frames.



I think that Chuck Funk told me that they were replicated by Mark Messier in Coventry.

LO: Chuck and Dave dealt with all the subcontractors. We know that we are going to enjoy the beautiful craftsmanship now that we are on the verge of moving back in.

BB: It's clear that you have had a very good relationship with Funk & Little. I recall that when I interviewed them a week ago, they outlined a scheme of three prime issues about working on this house: Project, Time, and Budget.

LO: Well, we interviewed a number of possible contractors, and we knew that they would be making a commitment, just as we were, and we had to find the right people who would respect our wishes, could guide us in the right directions, and finally – (this is really important) also be people whom we could trust to create some great solutions and handsome construction and restoration.

BB: Now that we are up here in the attic, I am really impressed about the work which has been done.

LO: We always dreamed of making this living space, not just a huge attic. And actually, it was one of the battles we had with Chuck and Dave, because they really wanted to focus on the first two floors. I agreed, but also said that we were going to be spending so much money anyway, and while we have the insulation people here, and the sheet-rockers, let's do it right. We would never make this into a living space unless we did it now. Since we lost two spare bedrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, we could use this as guest rooms for company and also a space for daughter Catherine as a rec-room.

BB: The entire West side of the attic roof was burned out, as well as the gable. That must have been the most serious damage to the structure.

LO: Yes, they had to put huge plastic tarpaulins over the whole west side. Snow and rain was coming through. The framer, Jim Engel, suggested removing the gable, but I wanted to replicate the little pointed skylight that faces South from the front and therefore have a mirror image. Rich Sherman said "Great idea!" and Tony exploded. "What are you doing?" I replied that I didn't know how much more it would cost, but the few thousand dollars would be worth it.

BB: You have to look pretty carefully to see it from the outside – the back yard is best – but it makes a lot of sense up here in the attic, because the

two small rounded windows make a kind of clerestory. The whole space is tall and soaring, whereas before the fire it was simply a dark unfinished attic.

LO: My favorite part is in the square turret, with the windows on three sides. We're going to have fun doing something with this space, and especially the ceiling.

BB: There's a 15<sup>th</sup> c. Italian Painter, Mantegna, who made a trademark of painting such ceilings so that you had the feeling that you were looking up to the sky with little "putti" angels looking down at us.

LO: A neat idea. We'll have to find someone who will take that ceiling on. I could not have imagined that the unusual window shape could be customized by Marvin energy-efficient installations and also be double-pane glass. There's no heating installed up here yet, but the windows and the foam insulation are doing a great job. And besides, all the attic windows have the small panes divided by many muntins that are a characteristic of a Queen Anne house.

BB: A marvelous architectural detail which has been restored in modern guise. And finally up here, there's the chimney, all completely new.

LO: It was a sight to see when the old chimney was removed right down to the floor of the basement – it left a big hole right in the middle of the house.

BB: Finally, we have returned to the front foyer and the remarkable curved windows and stained glass transoms.

LO: Yes, the firemen came back a week after the fire to do a "post-op" and discuss how their procedures went. They were really sensitive to us that they had to break the curved windows to put out the fire, but they kept reminding us "We didn't break the stained glass!".

BB: I know you made some real changes to the kitchen. I think that everyone who buys a pre-owned house wants to make revisions – but you made some real structural changes as well.

LO: Well, yes, The kitchen was not very functional and needed a major overhaul anyway. Before we had the baby, I would sit here at night after Tony was asleep and try to figure out how to make this kitchen work. We had hoped to do all that as one of our major projects before the fire. But I was concerned about losing the back porch as a characteristic feature of a

continued on page 10

# WILLIMANTIC VICTORIAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of Meeting of January 27, 2008

Bob Horrocks called a meeting of the Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood Association to order on Sunday January 27th, 2008, at 3:38 p.m. The meeting was held at the WVNA Meeting House at 869 Main Street.

The following members attended: Richard Bloomer, Jennifer Clark, Kay Haskell, Bob Horrocks, Pam Horrocks, Sue Humes, Faith Kenton, Claire Lary, Douglas Lary, Bette MacDonald, Gordon MacDonald, Pat Miller, Shirley Mustard, Brian Riley, Leo Santucci, Teri Santucci, Paul Siege, Virginia Siege, Marian Wolf, and Bob Wolf

### Announcements/Correspondence

- Thanks to Shirley Mustard, Lynn Duval and Bruce Bellingham for an outstanding January newsletter. Photos of the feature house were circulated for members to look at.
- Thanks to Jennifer Clark for hosting the potluck this evening.
- Thanks to those who hosted, contributed and participated in the Progressive Dinner.
- Bob Horrocks invited all present to enter into his "free raffle" for a door prize.
- Kay Haskell thanked Pam Horrocks and Teri Santucci for their help in decorating at her newly opened Whispering River Gallery. She also showed an example of a for sale series of Victorian houses by artist Sarah Bodlak.

### Reports

- **President's Report**—
  - Bob Horrocks announced that the WVNA's contribution of \$1000 toward the Main Street façade improvement project has been made. Gordon MacDonald has been working with the first building to be worked on, owned by Dave LeBel.
  - Bob also offered our sympathy to Tom DeVivo and his family for the loss of their wife and mother, Kathy DeVivo.
  - The election of Officers and Board members will be held at the February meeting. Current Officers are President - Bob Horrocks, Vice President - Frank Cronin, Treasurer - Doe Hentschel, and Secretary - Claire Lary. Current Board Members are Bruce Bellingham, Jennifer Clark, Charlie Krich, Shirley Mustard, Brian Riley. Only five of a possible eight Board Member Positions are currently filled. Bob will survey the current Officers and Board to see if they are willing to continue to serve. If anyone else is interested, please let Bob know.
- **Treasurer's Report** —
  - Doe Hentschel was unable to attend the meeting. Her report was given by Pam Horrocks. The proceeds from the Progressive Dinner were \$1,252.18. Current balances are: WVNA accounts containing \$9,506.22 and Victorian Days accounts totaling \$18,744.26. As was voted last month, portions of both accounts (\$6,000 and \$15,000) were deposited in CDs to gain some interest.
- **Publicity/Newsletter** —
  - Shirley Mustard passed around a copy of Barbara Lacey's new book. The WVNA purchased a copy, which may be borrowed by members. Upcoming homeowner articles will feature Christel and Mark Donahue, JM Schold, and Michael Mazzola. Bruce Bellingham's article on the restoration of the O'Brien-Kidd house will continue next month and will be followed by an article on the craftsmen who have worked on the project.
  - Bette MacDonald announced that WAAC, Swift Waters and the ArtSpace Gallery will be sponsoring an Evening Gallery Walk on June 7<sup>th</sup> during Victorian Days.
  - Bob Horrocks wanted to make sure members saw the listing of available handy men in the January newsletter.
- **Special Events** —Brian Riley reported that the annual Snow Ball is approaching on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The event is being organized by Andrew Gibson and will benefit the Windham Textile and History Museum. Potluck hosts are set through June. The date of the March meeting will be moved to the fifth Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> as the fourth Sunday is Easter.



• **Committee Reports:**

○ **Victorian Days —**

- Pam Horrocks reported that planning is coming along well. Events will include a show by Kandie Carle, an expanded garden tour, an opening event the weekend before with a matinee performance of a one person show, "They Call Me Lizzie," at the Theater Guild. Leslie O'Brien and Tony Kydd's house will be on the tour, featuring many of the artisans who helped bring their house back after the fire. WVNA and Victorian Days will purchase an insurance policy to cover Victorian Days and the other events offered through the WVNA.
- Teri Santucci reported that they are working with Swift Waters to plan an Art Show to be held at Kramer on both Saturday and Sunday.
- Leo Santucci said that the Railroad Museum will be dedicating their Roundhouse during the weekend and that the Textile Museum will be having a Victorian furniture exhibit. Leo also met with the Police Chief about the possibility of an exhibit using some of the history of the Willimantic Police Department, perhaps at Town Hall. The Fire Chief is also interested in participating and has a lot of memorabilia, including an old hose wagon for display, possibly under a tent on a closed-off section of Summit Street near the old Fire House. Leo, Teri and Doe Hentschel worked with an accountant to get all the Victorian Days books in order and entered into Quick Books.
- Bob Horrocks reminded us that on Thursday night there will be a lantern tour, Friday night the Brass Band Concert and procession. On Saturday the Art Walk described earlier by Bette MacDonald. Jennifer Clark, Marian Wolf, Dick Bloomer, Leo and Teri Santucci, Pam and Bob Horrocks are working on the organizing committee. As the event grows, we will need more volunteers than ever this year.

○ **Home Ownership/Residency –**

- Charlie Krich and Shirley Mustard and continue to coordinate the recognition certificates. Four certificates were awarded this month to: Willimantic Interior Design, 59 Church Street, Paul Ashton at 170 North Street, Pat Calvo and Peter Huckins at 16 Washburn Street and Thread City Café, 931 Main Street, who are reportedly going to frame theirs and hang it on their wall.

○ **Historic Preservation and Awareness**

- Kay Haskell reported that Jean deSmet has put all projects, including the Town Hall, on hold until she is able to get some information together on them. The Town Hall Preservation Committee is still planning to work on renovation of the Municipal Auditorium on the third floor.

○ **Gardens and Landscaping – No report.**

3. **Other Projects –** Bob Horrocks invited members to talk about their ideas for upcoming projects.

- Gordon MacDonald reported that Mansfield is working on tracing the history of barns in Mansfield and is photographing them.
- Doug Lary expressed an interest in some sort of outreach to include younger people to encourage continued momentum in the preservation and appreciation for antique homes.
- Pam Horrocks suggested that we continue gifts to the Town, perhaps by planting and paying someone to water and maintain hanging baskets on the new light posts on Main Street.
- Bob Horrocks suggested that we consider collectively decorating one house for Christmas and opening the house for Victorian Teas for two weekends in December.
- Teri Santucci suggested that we might do some sort of project to beautify the interior of Town Hall and try to discourage or camouflage the stacks of boxes in the Town Hall Windows. Pat Miller suggested that we could help First Selectman Jean deSmet who is interested in improving signage in Town Hall or that we could go and ask what she thinks we could do to help improve the appearance of the building. Kay Haskell suggested that we use the entrance to display something – artwork, historical memorabilia, photographs, etc. Teri suggested that Windham Tech might be able to help with signs.

4. Following the drawing for a lovely "brasslike" candle holder with candle, won and immediately donated back by Richard Bloomer, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. followed by a potluck dinner at the home of Jennifer Clark.

5. The next meeting, including election of Officers and Board Members, will be held on February 24th.

Respectfully submitted, Claire M. Lary, Recording Secretary

# Romantic Willimantic Trivia

## Answers

1. TeeKays, Hurley-Grant Building, Sumner & Sumner
2. 8 - Bonus if you can name them.
3. Park Avenue
4. Milk Street
5. Electricity
6. 1898
7. Town Hall and The Armory
8. Louise Guarnaccia
9. Romantic Willimantic & Thread City
10. 1957
11. H.C. Murrays (the Boston Store)
12. 13 - Double bonus for naming at least 10!
13. Willimantic River
14. Mary Dwyer
15. YMCA

## Victorian Days in Willimantic June 5, 6, 7, 8, 2008

THURSDAY — Lantern Tour of 3 Bridges

FRIDAY — Brass Band Concert

saturday & sunday

Victorian tea

Architectural Slide Show • Walking Tours

Vintage Cars, Teddy Bear Tea Party

Throughout The Weekend

Artisans Expo

Tour of Churches & Town Hall

The Victorian Lady

They Called Me Lizzie

OPEN ALL WEEKEND

Railroad Museum, Jillson House,  
Windham Textile & History Museum, Frog Bridge,  
Footbridge, Garden on the Bridge

For more information or to request an  
event brochure with full details, call 860-456-4476

Presented by

Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood Assoc.  
and The Windham Textile & History Museum.

Sponsored by O.L. Willard Co., Inc.

## Craftsman Interviews

(Continued from page 7)

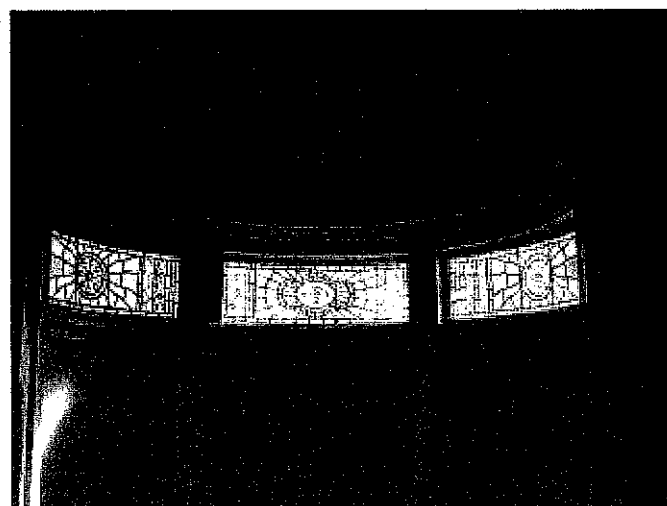
Victorian, even though it was charming and we used it mainly as a place to store a lot of junk. So the good news, after a lot of consultation with Chuck Funk, Dave Little and Rich Sherman, was that we gained a commodious pantry and expanded the kitchen into part of the porch. We now have a bumped-out east wall to the edge of the former porch, and the new porch is a covered entry that utilizes only one section of the old porch.

BB: Lots of Victorians have many doors and windows in their kitchens, and there seem to always be issues about where to put the refrigerator, and how to create a working space between it and the cooking and the sink areas.

LO: We really needed a pantry. When the Littles made changes to the house in the 1940s, they took the pantry and made it into a first-floor bathroom. For us the pantry was a set of cabinets on each side of the entry into the bathroom. But we needed a bathroom, and also a pantry – that is our solution for the kitchen area.

BB: Well, Leslie, you have given a great detailed tour. Your new/old house has been revived and you are entering into a new stage in your lives. Now, I want to put together for a future issue my interviews with some of the subcontractors, as well as the major designers of these changes to your house.

Our readers will be able to visit this spectacular home on the Home Tour and see for themselves this gorgeous curved window.





# Victorian Willimantic Neighborhood Association

In care of Pam Horrocks

202 Lewiston Avenue, Willimantic, CT 06226 ☎ 456-1666

## Membership Categories:

- Regular Membership:** Supporters of the preservation and promotion of the Victorian history, architecture and character of Willimantic.
- Business Membership:** A company in the business community wishing to support the mission of the association.
- Honorary Membership:** A lifetime membership bestowed on a person making an exemplary contribution to the organization.

Annual Memberships		Business/Corporate Memberships		Life Memberships	
Student/Senior	\$10.00	Business	\$50.00	Life Member	\$500.00
Individual	\$15.00	Corporate Sponsor	\$100.00		
Family	\$20.00	Corporate Patron	\$500.00	Life Benefactor	
Contributing	\$50.00	Corporate Benefactor	\$1000.00		\$1000.00
Sustaining	\$100.00				

See mailing label on your newsletter for expiration date of your current membership.

All members will receive the Newsletter and notices of meetings and events.

Please complete the form and mail with your check to:  
Pam Horrocks, 202 Lewiston Avenue, Willimantic, CT 06226

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name (if business membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Joined \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## MISSION STATEMENT

It is the purpose of the Association to provide education and to assist the community in the preservation and promotion of the Victorian history (c.1830-1930), architecture and character of Willimantic.

**Calendar of Events**

Next Meeting

February 24, 2008

WVNA Meeting House

869 Main Street • 3:30 PM

Speaker:

Steven Dahlberg, Principal

International Center for Creativity & Imagination  
Election of Officers

Pottuck to follow meeting

Hosts:

Marian & Bob Wolf

185 Walnut Street

Next Meeting

March 30

*The Willimantic Neighborhood Association is the key to the communication in regard to the Hill Section, the Home Tour, Economic Development and a better quality of life in our town. Join today if you have not already done so. Send us your ideas and thoughts, participate in the meetings and events. Be a part of this wonderful community and this extraordinary "neighborhood".*  
Call Bob Horrocks 456-1666.

Photos:

Bruce Bellingham

Mark Donahue

Kim Silcox



*Victorian*  
*Willimantic*  
Neighborhood Association

202 Lewiston Avenue  
Willimantic, CT 06226

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**Please call on the WVNA Officers & Board for Information or Assistance:**

President, Bob Horrocks	456-1666
Vice President, Frank Cronin	423-4675
Secretary, Claire Lary	456-3088
Treasurer, Doe Hentschel	456-4632
Membership, Pam Horrocks	456-1666
Social, Brian Riley	423-1893
Home Tour & Newsletter, Lynn Duval	456-4476
Legislative Liaison, Bob Horrocks	456-1666
Publicity, Public Relations, Newsletter	
Shirley Mustard	423-1481
Legal, Charles Krich	456-8874

