



Washington Park Association

www.WPA-TROY.org

Troy, NY

DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS PARTICIPATE IN 2006 VICTORIAN STROLL Holiday Greenery Hung on Homes and Lightpoles

“City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style” are waiting for the arrival of visitors to the City of Troy’s 2006 Victorian Stroll on December 3. Wreaths purchased by Jane Stewart of Troy adorn the lightpoles of downtown. Stewart, and her late husband Peter, many years ago began the purchase of the downtown wreaths each year to add to the Victorian Stroll theme of an old fashioned downtown. The ‘elves’ in the City of Troy Department of Public Works hang the wreaths annually. The Victorian Stroll is the premier event in Troy, attracting thousands of visitors to the historic downtown.

The neighborhoods encompassing downtown - Washington Park, Historic Sage, Pottery District, Think 1st, Fifth and Grand Association, City Center and Little Italy – are also dressing in holiday style. Inspired by Jane Stewart, residents and owners deck their front doors and lightpoles in green wreaths with red bows to link the adjacent neighborhoods to the heart of the city. The effort is coordinated by Lynn Kopka, president of the Washington Park Association and Peter Grimm of the Historic Sage neighborhood.

Kopka notes that each year more and more owners are participating throughout the downtown neighborhoods. Fifth and Grand neighbors purchased lightpole wreaths for the first time, spurred on by Fifth Avenue resident Joe Riley. Long time Grand Street owner Greg Cholakis has rallied his block to decorate their front doors. “We feel that highlighting the neighborhoods that are within walking distance of downtown pays off. We get follow up calls from interested renters and homeowners. The City is at its best during the Stroll and people respond to that,” says Grimm.

Stroll activities centered on the neighborhoods include the Second Street walk and Washington Park open houses from noon to four, including food and entertainment at 206 Third Street, hot chocolate at 7 Washington Place and caroling around a piano at 3 Washington Place. St. John’s Church on First Street will open its massive doors to let the sun shine on its Tiffany windows. Greenleaf Art Studio at 159 Second Street will be open with entertainment. Little Italy’s Flavour Café, a popular spot, will be open all day with entertainment and specials. Little Italy’s locally owned restaurants - Flavour Café, Anselmo’s, Carmen’s Café, DeFazio’s Pizzeria, Irish Mist, Red Front, Vanilla Bean - will be open after the Stroll for light repasts as well as full meals. Grimm and Kopka’s efforts are supported by neighborhood residents and individual and business sponsors, including Lisa and Larry Kagan, Frances and Joseph Grillo, Northland Transportation, Brian McCandless, Jack Casey, Linda Passaretti, and Poulin & Sons Plasterworks on Broadway in Troy.

For press info, contact: Lynn M. Kopka, WPA president, 274-6434
Peter Grimm, Historic Sage Neighborhood, 273-1500