



Washington Park Association

www.WPA-TROY.org

Troy, NY

WASHINGTON PARK AND HISTORIC SAGE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTICIPATE IN THE 2005 VICTORIAN STROLL

The Washington Park Association and the Historic Sage Neighborhood are putting an emphasis on the 'stroll' in Troy's Victorian Stroll. Located just a short stroll south of the heart of downtown, the two neighborhoods put on their finery for strollers along Second Street and around Washington Park. A leisurely stroll south on Second Street through the Historic Sage Neighborhood leads visitors to Washington Park which is surrounded by vibrant neighborhoods such as Little Italy, South Central, Osgood, Pottery and First Street.

Washington Park again opens several of its homes for the 2005 Victorian Stroll. The Gloria Parsons Trio will play several sets of mellow jazz in one of the newly refurbished apartments at Park Place Apartments at 212 Third Street. Elizabeth Woodbury, composer, will also perform at Park Place Apartments during the trio's break at 2:00. Visitors will have an opportunity to taste a gastronomic offering prepared by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Executive Chef, Jackie Baldwin. To keep your toes warm and your spirits up, Jackie will also prepare a punch bowl of zesty sangria. The Park Place Apartments are located in the former St. Mary's School and reflect the new reality that is Troy – high end, tastefully done apartments filled with professionals exploring urban life.

Tom and Ellen Sinopoli, of the Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company, open their spacious first floor entry hall at 171 Second Street. Recently restored and redecorated, the hallway is an inviting glimpse into the past. The imposing building is an owner occupied home with spacious rooms and gardens. ESDC has been a presence in the Capital Region for more than a decade. Tom and Ellen chose Troy as their home for its proximity to cultural venues and for the affordable real estate that easily serves as grand entertaining space, a must for this couple.

Washington Park's stroll would not be complete without an open house in one of the Washington Place properties. Designated as one of the "Seven to Save" significant historic structures by the Preservation League of New York State, the 1840's Greek Revival row of ten buildings behind a unified façade is a architectural marvel and a story of urban decline and revival. Two of the ten buildings will be open for the Stroll. Number 7 Washington Place will literally show its bones as the long vacant shell is in the midst of being reborn as an owner occupied home. Strollers will have an opportunity to see a work in progress and speak to brave owners Charlie Lanier and Charlie Amidon.

Carolers will gather around the grand piano in the front parlor of 3 Washington Place. Opera singer Elizabeth Wunderlich and pianist Nina Pattison will lead a chorus of voices in singing songs of the season. Number 3 Washington Place has been occupied as a single family home by Sandy and Vince Vardine for less than a year after being vacant for more than 25 years. Almost complete, it is testimony to the rebirth of Troy as a great place to live and work. Once housing more than six substandard units and gutted by fire, 3 Washington Place has returned to its original splendor.

For those strollers who burn too much energy in downtown Troy partaking of the art and cultural offerings, Washington Park will provide a free shuttle bus, courtesy of Northland Transportation. The shuttle will run in a continuous loop from the Courthouse at Congress and Second, west on Congress, south on First, east on Adams and north on Second. The shuttle will stop at St. John's Church on First Street for the restored Tiffany windows. Long an anchor in the community, St. John's Church is becoming more of an



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active presence in the neighborhood under the guidance (divine or otherwise) of Father Hap Carrier. Pray for a sunny day on December 4 as the windows show best with a ray of sun.

The neighborhoods surrounding Washington Park are also participating in the Stroll on a less formal basis. Take a side trip to the neighborhoods and get a taste of real life in Troy. You will find it a pleasure. Flavour Café at 228 Fourth Street, next door to the Vanilla Bean Bakery, will have specials throughout the day. Allblues at 199 Fourth Street will be selling unique gifts for all ages. The former PJ's Pub at the corner of Second and Adams will also be open to encourage other courageous souls to undertake adaptive reuse of vacant structures. Once a neighborhood nuisance, the building is undergoing transformation to office space. Another opportunity to see a work in progress before the ribbon cutting later this winter.

The Victorian Stroll is centered in downtown Troy, the business, arts and government hub. But take a stroll south along Second Street, stop at St. John's at First and Liberty, spend some time around the Park (the sangria will warm you as will the caroling), head on over to Little Italy and then consider moving to Troy.