

Greenwich High School
Wreadin Writin n Wreminiscin

Weekly Wreader

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GREENWICH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL



Farewell Planned for Town Landmark

By Vesna Jaksic
Staff Writer

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It had mold that forced some students to leave, roof leaks that disrupted class and inadequate space that caused scheduling nightmares.

But Hamilton Avenue Magnet School also has been a landmark of the Chickahominy community, serving town families for 93 years. Between its aging walls, weakening infrastructure and outdated classrooms are memories of the nerve-racking first day of classes, proud moments from graduation ceremonies and contributions left by hard-working teachers and parents. The school is expected to close over winter break, when students will move to a modular building at Western Middle School while Hamilton Avenue is rebuilt.



As the life of the school building approaches its end, the PTA is reaching out to the community to help them bid farewell. The PTA is asking for pictures, letters, stories, or any other memories of the school as it plans a goodbye celebration for December.

Alumni, town residents, former and current employees and students are all encouraged to submit materials by Nov. 19 for the event, which will be called "A Night of Memories." The free event, which will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the school, will feature speeches by school and town officials and a hallway full of displays about the school's rich history, said Hector Ruiz, co-president of the school's PTA.

"There are a lot of memories with this school and a lot of strong feelings within the community about the building," said Ruiz, a Glenville resident whose three children attend Hamilton Avenue. "A lot of people wanted to do some type of a formal ceremony to say goodbye, to remember the good sides of the school, not just to let it go by the wayside. We felt like the parents needed to do something for the community, not just the school, and say goodbye to the school."

George Von Tobel, the former PTA co-president, said the celebration is a fitting way to remember the school.

"I think it's important to the community since we're probably the only school in town that's using its original building who knew about losing their original building," said Von Tobel, referring to the fact that the last time the town rebuilt a school, the Cos Cob School, demolition was not planned. That rebuilding followed a fire.

Von Tobel went to Hamilton Avenue, as did his mother, his grandmother, his great-grandparents and both of his daughters. Now 42, he still has a fourth-grader at the school and said he will consider sharing his family's story during the goodbye celebration.

"I grew up right next door on Hamilton Avenue," he said. "I lived two doors down. It's very much a part of our family for many years. It's a landmark. It's one of the things when people ask you, 'How do you get to your house?' or 'Where do you live?' you say, 'By the school.' "

The Dec. 3 event also will give many alumni a last chance to walk through their elementary school, said Laura DiBella, the PTA co-president.

"The school has played a big part in this community and there are quite a few alumni who still live here and went to school here many, many years ago," she said. "One of the goals is to allow them to come back, walk through the school, relive their memories and say their goodbyes."

To submit materials for "A Night of Memories," to be held Dec. 3 at Hamilton Avenue Magnet School, send them by Nov. 19 to Hamilton Avenue Magnet School, c/o Darlene Angotto, 184 Hamilton Ave., Greenwich, CT 06830.

A Call to Voices



Judith **WHITE** Chapman . Riverside . CT

JWCRIV@aol.com

Hi Bob,

Thanks again for all of your hard work on our reunion!

Bud Titsworth and his wife belong to a lovely choir with paid soloists at the Greens Farm Congregational Church in Westport (exit 18 off I-95)... AND they will be singing Vivaldi's Gloria at the 10:30am service on December 12th. They would be most pleased if you, or any Senior Chorus member living close by, might want to join the group that morning? Rehearsals are at 8:00pm on Thursday evenings, but the choir director is very understanding about any of our group attending some or all of the rehearsals.

You would be surprised how well you remember this piece after our years with Gerry Mack! Please contact Bud (budt@optonline.net) if you think you might like to be part of the choir on the 12th!

New Kid on the Block



Charles Dayton (Bud) **TITSWORTH** . Westport . CT
budt@optonline.net

Actually Bud was known to us as far back as July of this year, when he attended one of the steering committee meetings for the Picnic at the Point. As well as arriving at the Picnic, later that day with Bill Vanneman. Thanks to Judy Whit Chapman, we now have an eMail address for Bud.

Bud, like Bill Vanneman, Bill Steinberg, George Svorka and my brother Phil, is a member of the Class of 1961 and we are looking for more of those from classes ahead and behind ours to join. Look deep into your records and find more friends and classmates to join our "fun"...

Webbster n Button



More from the Davino Collection



Eugene **DAVINO** . Greenwich . CT + Chatham . MA
eugenedavino@aol.com

For more than a year I have been writing to Gene Davino, to ask for another photo or piece of memorabilia from his "vast" collection. And surprisingly, we have not had a single "miss" in any of the requests. If Gene can't find it in his "Imaginary Attic" on the Cape, he will find it somewhere and within seconds there it is in PDF Format in your nearest "Inbox". I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Gene for all of his gracious assistance and his marvelous resources.

Along with the Compass Pages that carry photos of classmates of prior and latter

years, Gene has maintained a collection of Postcards, of some of the most remote "landmarks" in Greenwich History. Following are several of some of these "looks at the past" can you identify either of the first two? Gene has told me the answers, so I will know when the correct one comes in.



The first of an "Unknown" locations, would of course be for those of you who had an interest in Interiors or History.

There is not much to go on here, unless you have been to this place, once in your lifetime.

The photo below is a very easy one for a group of those of you from my end of town. But you get points for answers to any of the following questions.



The photo is purported to be taken in the 60's, which would place many of the people on the beach in our "realm" of knowledge. Can you identify any of them? There was a stone pier in the distance, yet it never was at a "boat disembarking" level, nor was the area dredged deep enough for the boats that would be able to "disembark" at that level. There were never any ways at this part of the cove, so it was not a storm break, and the other side of the wall was private property belonging to the Owner of Sears Roebuck, a large piece of property call the Anchorage??? Could that be a clue? Now the area where the beach is has a baseball field just behind the wooden bathhouses. It would be behind you in the photo. This baseball field sits at the base of what used to be one of the area's active Granite Quarries, and the shear rock cliffs still

remain. Were these piers used for the shipping of the "granite" on flat bottomed boats? Hmmmm, "curiouser and curiouser" to quote Yul Brenner. In the distance is the part of town, few could afford to live in so it was reserved for the likes of the daughter of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco company. My father built many of their "whimsy's" including a treehouse with an elevator.



The next three postcards are all "labeled" and the first two are of the same place. I am not sure which photo predates the other, but the one on top has a tennis court in the foreground, while the other has a circular drive and a planter in the same location. Of course the awnings tend to create a bit of a "club-like" atmosphere, as does the tennis court. So I would opt for the upper photo being the "latest version of the

"Castle at Sound Beach". So here is the question. Does it still exist? And what was it? I strangely remember something like this down near Tod's Point.



Our last postcard shows a House on North Street, and it's called the Crossroads. There was a card a long time ago, that was called "At the crossroads, but there are few similarities.

It is a curious postcard in that it appears to be of a residence, but not that imposing of a residence, and the most important feature of the card is a path or roadway that through the years has allowed the ink to bleed through from the backside or someone has

written on the face... So I am open to any answers about this one... and the other "cross roads"... It seems that the belief is that it's somewhere near the Millbrook Country Club and the border of Cos Cob. So get crackin' and tell us where some of these things are.

