

Featured Chamber Members

Eric Rains Landscape Architecture

eric rains landscape
architecture, llc

A landscape architect must have talent for the aesthetic and the functional, the creativity and the scientific knowledge to develop each unique assignment. Eric Rains, licensed landscape architect, realized that after 15 years working for others and servicing clients in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, starting his own practice was the next step to continue his personal and professional growth. Eric Rains Landscape Architecture (ERLA) was launched in June 2011.

ERLA is a full service landscape architecture practice that includes assessing clients' needs and desires for their property and developing design schemes that blend these parameters with the physical attributes of the site. The current mix of projects across the tri-state area includes single family residential, transit-oriented development, medical office conversions, historic building repurposing, equestrian property development, planning and zoning entitlement, luxury automotive, a municipal park, indoor ice rink and more.

ERLA's client base consists of a broad blend of homeowners, land and building owners, architects, land use attorneys, civil engineers, municipal bodies, developers, not-for-profit groups and volunteers community groups. Given the diverse mix of projects and client types, ERLA is equipped to operate on any level related to site design and development. The project mix has afforded ERLA the opportunities to work with clients that have a wide variety of needs. "Being able to deliver design solutions that address these needs in creative and



photograph by Olson Photographic, LLC (featured on the cover of ASLA Handbook 2003)

thoughtful ways is what perpetuates the business," says Rains.

Rains also holds many leadership roles in the community, serving as President Elect of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Chairman of the Marketing, Planning and Redevelopment Committee of the SoNo Collaborative, Advisory Board Member at the University of Connecticut, Advisory Board Member of Greenwich Green and Clean and President of the Maritime Condominium Association. Rains' professional and personal involvement gives ERLA the ability to handle virtually any size project on any site.

ERLA is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all, from single-family homes to public spaces used by everyone. For more information on ERLA's services, contact Eric Rains at (203) 853-7600, email eric@ericrains.com or visit www.ericrains.com.

Tutor Time Child Care

Finding quality childcare is a main concern for many parents as it is one of the most important steps in a child's early years of development. Tutor Time Child Care in Norwalk is family owned and has been in business for 14 years, offering a safe, caring and enriching childcare environment for infants to age 5 when children enter Kindergarten. Tutor Time, located at 466 Main Avenue in Norwalk, provides a program experience that gives today's parents peace of mind. It is conveniently opened year round from 6:30am to 6:30pm.

Tutor Time offers an exceptional program where each child can learn, develop and always feel supported and encouraged. The center's LifeSmart Curriculum prepares Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten children for elementary school and includes Fitness for Life with physical fitness and nutrition, Spanish, Chinese, Dance, Soccer and community involvement. It's StartSmart curriculum is for children from infants to age 3 and includes Baby Sign Language with age appropriate activities planned around the key developmental areas of Social/Emotional, Cognitive, Physical Development and Language. Tutor Time offers a full Summer Camp Program with theme camps planned in Sports, Science, Drama, Cooking, Arts & Crafts and Nature with awesome field trips and special visitors. With a strong family focus, we hold many Parent Socials where parents can meet



other families and be an active part of their child's school program. There are many opportunities for parents to come in to read to their child's class, participate in holiday celebrations, community events, a Thanksgiving Feast and our ever-popular school parades!

Carol Anderson, Owner of Tutor Time, says that Tutor Time Child Care is a perfect fit for busy, working parents who want the best in childcare and early education. "We provide training for our teachers, many of whom have been with us for over 10 years. Our center is supported with a fantastic and friendly administrative team including an Area Director, Director, Curriculum Coordinator and an Assistant Administrator.

Anderson, along with her husband Art Lungo, also owns and operates childcare centers in Milford and Shelton and is actively involved with the day-to-day operations. She says that many former families comment on how well their children are prepared for Kindergarten and recommend many families to the center.

To schedule a tour and to learn more about Tutor Time Child Care's curriculum and programs or to schedule a tour please call our Director, Jen Clancy at (203) 846-6046 or visit www.tutortimenorwalk.com for more information.

Norwalk's Open Door Shelter

Family homelessness in Connecticut rose 15 percent last year as data from the 2011 Point in Time Count (PIT) showed a total of 4,451 homeless persons in CT on a single night.

Norwalk's Open Door Shelter was founded in 1983 as a project of the Housing Committee of the Greater Norwalk Community Council. In April 1984, a separate nonprofit organization, called the Norwalk-Kiwanis Emergency Shelter, Inc., was formed. It purchased a building at 4 Merritt Street and opened its doors in November 1984. In January 1993, the name was changed to Norwalk Emergency Shelter, Inc. The name was changed again in 2008 to The Open Door Shelter to reflect that it serves all who are in need.

Norwalk's Open Door Shelter addresses the issues of homelessness, by providing shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing and job training for it also operates a soup kitchen, food pantry, clothing room, and makes available affordable housing for low-income earning individuals and families. Additionally, it employs a full-time Housing Coordinator and offers Case Management Services for all of its residents. The Shelter also has an Outreach Program; through which our Transitional Coaches along with Shelter residents travel throughout the community to areas where the homeless are known to congregate to encourage them into the Shelter for life-improving services.

Jackie Janosko, Development Manager at the Open Door Shelter, says, "The Shelter is unique in that we not only provide services for individuals and families who are homeless and needy, but also attempt to prevent homelessness by giving assistance those who are at risk of becoming homeless."

Clients receive referrals from social service agencies, hospitals, municipal agencies and other community service agencies. Janosko says there is no "typical" homeless or working poor person anymore. "The economic downturn has drastically changed the face of homelessness. People who once supported the shelter have now become clients in some cases. We work tirelessly to prevent and end the problem of homelessness in our community."

For more information, to volunteer or to make a donation to the Open Door Shelter, please visit www.opendoorshelter.org or contact Jackie Janosko at (203) 866-1057 x 29 or email jjanosko@opendoorshelter.org.

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