

HNA REPORTER

HELDERBERG NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ACADEMY STATION, P.O. BOX 8841, ALBANY, NY 12208

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**Next HNA Membership Meeting:
WEDNESDAY, July 19, 2006
7:00 PM**

**The Sage College of Albany
Campus Center, Room 224**

**Guest Speaker: Representatives from the
Albany Public Library**

Topic: Plans for the New Scotland Branch

Here is your opportunity to see the actual plans for the location, design and parking area. Your input is needed for the exterior look of the library as well.



A letter from Albany Police Chief James W. Tuffey:

On Tuesday, August 1, 2006, the City of Albany and the Albany Police Department are proud to participate in the 23rd Annual National Night Out sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support and participation in local anticrime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community groups, while sending a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime.

Traditionally, National Night Out in the City of Albany has included block parties, cookouts, exhibits, etc. This year we want to re-energize this valuable program and make it one of the most beneficial community/police based crime prevention programs in the Capital District.

We all want to make our communities a safer place to live in and to work in. Community Partnerships are vital to the success of safeguarding our neighborhoods. Seeking the input and talent of all the members of the community is imperative to the achievement of programs like National Night Out.

I would like to challenge everyone to make this one of the most successful National Night Outs the City of Albany has seen in recent years. We are looking for your input and ideas on how we can capitalize on the continued improvement and safety of our neighborhoods.

I look forward to hearing from you.

James W. Tuffey
Chief of Police

NOTE: If your street would like to participate in National Night Out on August 1, you may register with the Albany Police by contacting Sgt. Fred Aliberti at 447-8763 or faliberti@albany-ny.org. Let Sgt. Aliberti know what type of event you will be holding—picnic, street fair, musical event—and where on your street you will set up. Members of the police department and volunteers will visit your street throughout the evening, providing entertainment, information and fun.

The Helderberg Neighborhood Association meets on the third Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings are held from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Junior College of Albany, Campus Center. The remaining 2006 meeting dates are: September 20 (picnic) and November 15.

HNA Reporter is published every other month. Deadlines for articles or ads are 1/2; 2/22; 5/1; 7/1; 9/1; and 11/1. Ads and articles may be mailed to HNA, Academy Station, P.O. Box 8841, Albany, NY 12208. HNA Editors reserve the right to accept, reject or edit articles for content and space considerations.

DEAR NEIGHBORS:

As we reach the mid-point of summer and the vacation season, the buzz of locusts on a warm night is matched only by the buzz of activity in our neighborhood. The plans for a new branch library on New Scotland Avenue have been (and will continue to be) presented to the public at meetings in our Neighborhood. The Library Board of Trustees and the Citizens Library Advisory Committee are anxious to hear your comments and suggestions for the design and site-plan for their proposal.

Additionally, St. Peter's Hospital is continuing with their development plans. While the opportunity for meaningful input from neighborhood residents has been limited so far, we have no doubt that will change. St. Peter's has been very supportive of the Helderberg Neighborhood Association in the past (and vice versa). The St. Peter's project has a potentially dramatic effect on the upper portion of our Association and we will continue to encourage them to address the concerns of residents on the surrounding streets.

I would also like to thank all the members of our Association who took the time to vote on the library and school budgets. Regardless of how you voted, the simple act of showing up demonstrates to decision-makers the importance of reaching out to the people who live and work in our neighborhoods. Hopefully all our elected officials will eventually recognize the importance of including Neighborhood Association representatives in any planning process for neighborhood development and revitalization.

Just a reminder: on September 20 HNA will host our annual picnic in the field next to the fire station on New Scotland Avenue (last one at this site.) At the July 19 meeting we will outline all the tasks that need to be done to make this year's event a success. Please consider helping out with the preparations, and by all means join us at the picnic!


See you at the July 19 meeting!

Craig Waltz, Chair

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HNA RESIDENTS HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW NEW LIBRARY PLANS

Local residents can see and respond to the proposed New Scotland library site and design, as well as five other branches and the main Library, at one of three upcoming meetings. The first, hosted by the library, is Tuesday, July 18 at the New Scotland Library at School 19 at 7 p.m. The second meeting will take place the next evening, July 19, 7 pm, at the Delaware Avenue Library, 485 Delaware Ave. The final meeting will be held on Thursday, July 20, 7 pm, at 200 Henry Johnson Boulevard.

For the New Scotland Library, the Citizens Library Advisory Committee (CLAC) proposed utilizing the vacant city lot next to the fire station on New Scotland Avenue. The house adjacent to the lot would be purchased and demolished to provide more space. The library would be two stories high and set back, in keeping with the size and placement of houses along New Scotland Avenue. The architects also proposed a skylight atrium and a front porch, where people could visit and read. The proposed 10,000 square foot library would make it about five times larger than the library at School 19, which will have to vacate its premises by June 2007. For community events, the library would have one large meeting room, which would seat 50 people, and several smaller meeting rooms.

"We want the design to fit into the neighborhood," said Jeffrey Cannell, Albany Library Director, "but it also has to stand out and have a civic presence. We want people to drive by and know it's a library."

Eight parking spaces are proposed behind the building with a driveway to Maplewood behind the fire station. Other design details, such as whether the building will be brick or shingle, will be made later. The library is also looking into ways to make the building environmentally friendly, and has applied for grants to make that happen.

In November 2003, a consultant advised the library to do away with the Delaware and New Scotland libraries and build a larger combined branch, but those plans were scrapped after residents in both neighborhoods made it clear they wanted to keep their local branches, even if they were smaller. Cannell said that the lot next to the fire station had been suggested by local residents through CLAC and neighborhood groups. "We've been looking for about a year along New Scotland from Albany Medical Center to St. Peter's," Cannell said. "It's been a real challenge to find a site that was big enough, was available, and one we could get an option on." An option is needed to hold the property because the library will only be able to build the New Scotland Library—or build and renovate all the other libraries around the city—if Albany citizens pass a bond referendum, which the library is expected to put up for a vote this December.

Members of the public can ask questions or express concerns about the proposed New Scotland site by sending an e-mail to aplfacilities@uhls.lib.ny.us, or calling 427-4379.


Dennis Gaffney

Events at the Library

On Wednesday, July 19 at 7 pm, Roger Corman's 1954 film *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* will be shown in the auditorium of the main branch of the Albany Public Library as part of its Weird Wednesday Movies series. To enhance the movie experience, the library has installed a new and improved projection and sound system.

On Thursday, June 20 at 4:30 pm, the New Scotland branch will offer **Dance Revolution**, the world's most popular video game. Come get your groove on at the library!

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HNA Reporter welcomes the following new business:

Western Bakery Opens in Leo's Old Space

Since early June the Western Bakery, located at 28 Maple Avenue (in Leo's old space behind the Mobil station on the corner of New Scotland and Quail), has offered neighborhood residents fresh bread and other baked goods. Business owner Ayub Khan, a baker who worked in Schenectady for many years, makes many types of French and Italian breads, including ciabata, round bread, baguettes, and dinner rolls. Ayub bakes all of them himself on the premises. Plan to get there early to get the best selection. You will also find assorted pastries such as danishes, turnovers, croissants, muffins and cookies. For now, these come from a wholesale bakery. Eventually, however, Ayub hopes to hire a pastry chef so that the Western Bakery can expand its selection of home-baked goodies. The bakery sells coffee and a range of cold beverages, so you can pop in on the way to work to pick up a muffin and coffee.

The Western Bakery is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays. The telephone number is 438-0760.

Susan Vandeventer

Graffiti Spree Ends

Albany Police arrested 5 teens on June 21, 2006, who allegedly admitted they were on a graffiti spree while riding in a car full of spray paint cans. Officers pulled over the car on New Scotland Ave. and Norwood Ave. and arrested an 18 year old, three 16 year olds and a 15 year old, all from Albany.

The Albany Police are to be commended for their efforts in pursuing these acts of vandalism, helping to maintain the quality of life we have enjoyed in the HNA neighborhood.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Dates Announced

Residents of the City of Albany and small businesses may schedule an appointment to bring their hazardous waste to the City of Albany Landfill, 525 Rapp Road. Call 1-800-494-CARE Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, to register for one of the following dates: August 3, September 7, or October 5. The Landfill will be open from 4 pm to 7 pm on those days to accept your materials. You may call the same number to learn what is and is not acceptable.

A Note from St. Peter's Hospital:

St. Peter's Hospital is in the process of developing plans to upgrade the hospital in order to increase efficiency, convenience and privacy. This will provide world-class hospital facilities to meet the needs of Capital Region residents in the 21st Century. The project includes a new patient pavilion and renovations to existing facilities. It will also provide neighborhood enhancements including a new streetscape and improved traffic flow. During the construction period we also plan several steps in order to minimize any disruptions to the neighborhood.

We will be providing additional information through various communications to keep you informed as we proceed with this project. If you have any questions, please contact Elmer Streeter, Director of Corporate Communications, at 525-1232.

Editor's Note: St. Peter's held an informational meeting on June 28. We received the information too late to inform our members. If anyone went to this meeting, please come to HNA's July 19 meeting to share what you learned.



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Happy Gardening in the Helderberg Neighborhood

This is my first summer living in the Helderberg neighborhood. Now that the season is in full swing, I've been enjoying seeing what people are doing with their lawns as I take my daily walk. Many yards - even the tiniest - show a real individual touch, with unique plantings, rock gardens, wildflowers, and creative use of the "street strips." Two things I've been very happy to see are 1) the people pushing non-motorized mowers around, and 2) the relative absence of those little yellow warning signs that indicate chemical applications.

These two aspects of summer lawn care are more important than many of us realize, as gas powered lawn mowers and chemical yard treatments are serious environmental polluters. Here's what the United States Environmental Protection Agency has to say about lawn mowing: "Most people do not associate air pollution with mowing the lawn. Yet emissions from lawn mowers, snow blowers, chain saws, leaf vacuums, and similar outdoor equipment are a significant source of pollution. Today's small engines emit high levels of carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. They also emit hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, pollutants that contribute to the formation of ozone. While ozone occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere and shields the earth from harmful radiation, ozone at ground level is a noxious pollutant. Ground level ozone impairs lung function, inhibits plant growth, and is a key ingredient of smog." While most of us in the neighborhood fortunately have small lawns that don't take long to mow, the EPA estimates that an hour's worth of mowing with a gas powered mower creates the same amount of pollution as driving a new car 340 miles! So, next time you see your neighbors powering their mower with

their own energy, thank them for sparing your air. And if you own a smog-belching mower, please consider retiring it for a "greener model."

I suspect that many people who use chemical lawn care products simply aren't aware of what is in them, trusting that they are safely regulated. Unfortunately, this isn't the case. The biggest provider of chemical lawn care uses 32 pesticides, all of which contain ingredients that are environmental threats. Of these, 17 are possible carcinogens, and many others are known endocrine disruptors and reproductive toxins. Of the 32 pesticides, 13 include ingredients that are presently banned or restricted in other countries. Do we really feel okay about spreading these all around our houses? So, again, a big thank you to all of you who don't use these substances, or who are choosing organic lawn service providers

(there are some in the region). And if you see those little warning signs popping up, maybe it would be a good time to get into a friendly discussion with the owner of that yard so they can get the information they need to make a safer choice. I think most people do want to do the safe thing while having an attractive yard.

Some Websites to visit: www.epa.gov/otaq/consumer/19_yard.pdf and www.pesticidewatch.org

Ruth Ann Smalley



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HNA's membership year runs January to December. Your dues help support the cost of this newsletter and several free events throughout the year, including this year's annual September Picnic on 9/20/06.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Household: \$ 5.00
Business: \$10.00
Associate: \$10.00

Each household membership has one vote. Business members will receive one free ad in the HNA Reporter, and will have voting rights. Associate Members (not living within our boundaries) will have the HNA Reporter mailed to them.

Please enroll me as a member of the Helderberg Neighborhood Association. Enclosed is a check, made out to HNA, in the amount of \$_____ for a _____ membership. (Checks may be mailed to: HNA, Academy Station, P.O. Box 8841, Albany, NY 12208 OR brought to the next HNA meeting.) Date mailed: _____

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