

**CHESTNUT HILL ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
P.O. BOX 67173 • CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467-0002  
WWW.CHANEWTON.ORG

September 2012

**Dear Chestnut Hill Neighbors:**

The Red Sox won't be in the World Series this year, so wait 'til next year! The Patriots have not made as strong a start as we hoped, so we'll keep our fingers crossed. Go Pats!

**Thanks to All of Our Members!** -- In our last mailing, we opened our membership campaign for 2012, and the results have been great. More than 150 households responded, with contributions of more than \$8,800. You may recall that the minimum membership dues were \$40, and thanks to a large number of you, our average contribution was close to \$60. Dues help pay for our meetings, social events, website maintenance, postage and printing, and our annual members-only cocktail party. Many thanks to all of you for supporting the Association. Contributions are welcome anytime, but we won't be asking again until next spring.

**Find This Newsletter (and Other News) on CHA Website** -- This is our first issue that goes out both by U.S.P.S. and via the web. Please let us know if you wish to sign up for email-only delivery. Either way, the letters (present and past) will be posted on the website, [chanewton.org](http://chanewton.org), for your convenience. We'll continue mailing hard copies in the future for those who don't use computers. The website is faster, easy to use, and ideal for quick updates, news that is time-sensitive, and other notices affecting our neighborhood and community. Please let us know at [admin@chanewton.org](mailto:admin@chanewton.org) how we can improve it. You can also find us on Facebook, and "like" the Chestnut Hill Association.

**Annual Meeting in June** -- Our annual meeting was held in June at the Church of the Redeemer. Officers elected included Gloria Gavis, president, Elaine Pierce, treasurer, and Sue Flicop, secretary.

In addition, members elected to the Executive Committee include Ruthanne Fuller, John Grandin, Tom Greytak, Michele Hanss, Zibby Pyle, Jim Taylor, Lauren Thill, Dick Tucker, and Verne Vance. The treasurer's report showed a modest operating surplus for the year 2011 and for 2012 to date, and some cash reserves in the bank account. Our goal is to cover our expenses for printing, postage, meetings, and special events, with a little to spare for any unforeseen needs. The developers of the new Chestnut Hill Shopping Center appeared with a presentation on the new complex that replaces Macy's. (More later.)

A list of officers and board members with contact information is on the last page of this letter. Please feel free to contact anyone on that list if you have questions or suggestions for the CHA.

**CHESTNUT HILL NEWS**

The rest of this edition covers local news items and a few coming events. We hope these are of interest to our readers, and we always welcome your feedback for future issues.

**Boston College Football Schedule** – The 2012 schedule includes six home games, during which special parking rules will be in effect on nearby streets: All games are on Saturdays:

September 1 – Miami                      September 8 – Maine                      September 29 - Clemson;  
October 27 – Maryland;                      November 10- Notre Dame;                      November 17 – Virginia Tech.

Starting times will be announced closer to game dates, and more details may be found on the Boston College website: [www.bceagles.com/sports](http://www.bceagles.com/sports).

**Stokes Hall Progress** – The impressive and really big project known as Stokes Hall is well along toward completion. The latest from our friends at B.C. is that the project should be completed later this fall. Exterior work should be finished in October, and landscaping will continue through November. Occupants will be moving into the building in December, ready for classes to begin in January, 2013.

Boston College news about other events, including shows at the Art Museum, can be found at [www.bc.edu](http://www.bc.edu).

**Chestnut Hill Square** – The long-delayed project at the former OMNI Market site is well underway. Workers recently topped off the new Wegman’s super-store building. Other tenants will include medical offices, Equinox gym, Seasons 52 (a fresh grill and wine bar), and Brio Tuscan Grill.

**Route 9 Construction** -- Another project (up to a year) will begin soon to improve this busy road, causing (even more) traffic congestion. As this is a state (not City of Newton) roadway, extended hours of construction will mean work going on both day and night, including changes in the Hammond Pond Parkway. Much of this work is related to the Chestnut Hill Square development and the need for access, a new traffic crossover and stoplight between the Chestnut Hill Mall on one side and Chestnut Hill Square on the other. Equip yourselves with ear plugs and patience.

**Chestnut Hill Mall and The Atrium** – The Mall at Chestnut Hill has welcomed several new tenants, thanks in part to the closure of the Atrium Mall, which was sold by Simon Properties to Bulfinch Companies of Needham. Many former Atrium stores have moved or will be moving across Route 9, adding new names and filling some vacancies in the larger Mall at Chestnut Hill. The Atrium apparently will be renovated and converted to medical offices.

**New Stores at The Mall** -- Throughout the past year or more a number of stores moved from the Atrium to the Mall. Some of the stores already in or about to move include Tiffany & Co, J.Crew, LUSH Cosmetics, Vineyard Vines, and Loft. Favorites such as Bloomingdale’s and the Apple store are alive and well in their prime locations at the Mall. Stay tuned and stop by for a better look at what’s new. It should be a lively holiday season for a change.

**Chestnut Hill Shopping Center Redevelopment Plans** – WS Development, owner of the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center, is in the process of redeveloping the former Macy’s building and the former Rugged Bear space near Hammond Pond, at the intersection of Route 9 and Hammond Pond Parkway. Plans include a new National Amusements project, Cinema de Luxe, with a major new movie theatre and a restaurant called Davio’s Cucina featuring lower priced menu items and a bar. The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner and adjacent to the movie theatre. Moviegoers will be able to eat and drink at their seats with concierge service. All this is scheduled to be open next spring, 2013.

There will also be a high-end health club (Sports Club/LA) on the second floor. This full-line center is scheduled to open in January. Charter memberships are still available, and full information may be found at [sportsclubla.com](http://sportsclubla.com), where you can see a full color video about this important new facility.

The ground floor (in the old Macy's building and the Rugged Bear) will have multi-purpose retail space and restaurants, including Pinkberry, Shake Shack, Lululemon, City Sports, Pottery Barn, Bernards Chinese Restaurant, Treat Cupcake Bar and others. AMC's Chestnut Hill Theater will close as the new plans move forward. The second phase of the total project will wait until the current building is finished.

**Proposed Cleveland Circle Project** -- Boston Development Group is proposing a major mixed-use development for a new complex in Cleveland Circle on the site of the old Circle Theatre and Applebee's Restaurant, both of which will be demolished. Plans include a hotel, residential units, medical office space, and 14,000 square feet of ground floor retail space. Parking for 228 cars (both under and above ground) is included.

Although this is near our neighborhood, the property in question is in Boston, and the BRA is the agency doing the review. Plans and the proposal are available for inspection at the BRA, Room 910, Boston City Hall, Monday through Friday. Public comment is invited. Updates on meetings and more details can be found by Google search of "Boston Development Group Cleveland Circle."

**Hammond Pond** -- The plan for a memorial boardwalk on the water around part of the Hammond Pond shoreline continues under review. A hearing was held September 27, where the City of Newton Conservation Commission considered the possible impact on wildlife. Final decisions on the project have not been made yet. Since the pond is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, it is not solely a Newton issue.

**Opus Dei Project on Hammond at Suffolk Road** -- The exterior of the addition and renovation at 481 Hammond Street (Opus Dei) has been largely completed over the summer. New trees, shrubs and grass have been planted across the entire property. Interior work is underway now and will continue through the end of 2012, with completion expected next spring.

**Traffic & Parking Notes** -- It's no secret that the congestion around the entrance/exit from Hammond Street to the Star Market shopping center can cause potentially dangerous situations bordering on road rage, especially during the busy afternoon and early evening rush hours. Our Traffic & Parking Committee is attempting to determine what the best options would be to ensure greater safety and a smoother traffic pattern. Since the entry/exit point is in Brookline, not Newton, we hope to engage our friends across the border in our investigation and find a mutually agreeable solution to the problem.

**Parking at The Chestnut Hill School** -- The Chestnut Hill School has notified parents that on-site parking is no longer permitted on school grounds. This is designed to provide identified parking spaces for staff, and it means that congestion around the school entrance and driveway might be reduced. It could also mean more parking on local streets. (Recently, some local teens decided to rent out the School's parking lot during a B.C. football game for \$15-\$20 per space. This unauthorized and misguided venture didn't succeed as planned.)

**Closing of Crystal Lake** -- Newton's primary summer swimming hole, Crystal Lake, had to be closed earlier than usual due to unhealthy bacteria levels in the water. The swimming program was shortened by a few weeks, but Gath Pool remained open later and longer to compensate for the shutdown.

**What is “SAYOR?”**-- There is still considerable debate over a “Swim at Your Own Risk” policy in areas of Crystal Lake that have no lifeguards or safety equipment. While the police can issue warnings, enforcement has been lax in part because folks have swum at their own risk for decades, while many often swam in the middle of the night. There is no clearly enforced policy from the City, and the Board of Aldermen has not been willing to take a stand on safety concerns or update the ordinance for penalties for violation. This topic will lose heat over the winter and emerge anew in the spring, perhaps as an annual debate with no resolution.

**Waterworks Museum Update** -- The Waterworks Museum, across from the Chestnut Hill Reservoir on Beacon Street, is back to a fall schedule of walks and talks, including Wednesday evening lectures. The Museum is open weekly from Wednesday to Sunday. More information about events and schedules may be found at [www.waterworksmuseum.org/calendar](http://www.waterworksmuseum.org/calendar).

**Farmers Market** -- The popular Farmers Market at Cold Spring Park, 1200 Beacon Street, is open on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 6 p.m. with a wide range of local produce, jams, olive oil, baked goods, cider, maple syrup, meat, and fish. The outdoor season ends October 30, but the market will reopen Tuesday, November 13, indoors at the Hyde Community Center, 90 Lincoln Street 02421, near the T Station at Newton Highlands, off Walnut Street. An historical exhibit on farmers markets through the years will be at the Jackson Homestead and Museum, 527 Washington Street, with a free reception Wednesday, October 10, 6-8 pm.

**Local Real Estate Update** -- A recent mailing from Coldwell Banker has a good summary of changes in real estate data from a year ago. For Newton, the number of sales of either single family houses or condo units increased by 26-30% versus the same period in 2011. In addition, the number of days such properties were on the market declined moderately, although the average days between listing and sale are between 80 and 100. Compared to Brookline, Newton had a larger percentage gain in numbers of sales, but both communities have fewer houses on the market overall this year than the same period in 2011.

**Keep Our Neighborhood Clean and Safe, Please** -- A walk around the neighborhood shows that trash occasionally ends up on the side of the road instead of the proper barrel. We wouldn't have surveillance cameras to spot littering, but we can all do our part by picking up trash. Along many local sidewalks, tree limbs, shrubs, and hedges have become overgrown to where it's hard to navigate safely without walking into the street. This is a safety issue, so it's a good idea to keep those trees and hedges trimmed.

**Winter is Coming- Get out your Shovels** -- Our sidewalks will get more scrutiny from both the City and our near neighbors who will be watching to see if we all can abide by the snow removal ordinance. As a reminder, that regulation requires that all sidewalks be cleared of snow and ice within 30 hours of the end of every snowstorm. IF you cannot do the work or hire someone, you can call City Hall and request assistance from paid or unpaid volunteers. We know this will prove to be a pain in the neck, and some of us believe that this program doesn't make sense, but it is what it is, and let's do our best. Even better, just pray for another mild winter like last year.

Keep those cards and emails coming. We greatly appreciate your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Dick Tucker, on behalf of the CHA

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**For more information, please contact any of the following:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Committee</u>
Gloria Gavris	617-480-3646	<a href="mailto:gavrislaw@comcast.net">gavrislaw@comcast.net</a>	President/Executive
Sue Flicop	617-232-2310	<a href="mailto:suef@aol.com">suef@aol.com</a>	Secretary
Elaine Pierce	617-277-1845	<a href="mailto:pierceelaine@yahoo.com">pierceelaine@yahoo.com</a>	Treasurer
Ruthanne Fuller	617-738-5311	<a href="mailto:ruthannefuller@gmail.com">ruthannefuller@gmail.com</a>	Executive
John Grandin	617-566-4406	<a href="mailto:jgrandin3@gmail.com">jgrandin3@gmail.com</a>	Traffic/Parking
Jim Taylor	617-738-8746	<a href="mailto:jctslf@comcast.net">jctslf@comcast.net</a>	Traffic/Parking
Tom Greytak	617-232-1334	<a href="mailto:greytak@mit.edu">greytak@mit.edu</a>	Development
Lauren Thill	Please email	<a href="mailto:lalu@rcn.com">lalu@rcn.com</a>	Social Activities/Website
Dick Tucker	617-232-2540	<a href="mailto:dicktucker@hotmail.com">dicktucker@hotmail.com</a>	Newsletter
Verne Vance	617-232-5494	<a href="mailto:vvance@rcn.com">vvance@rcn.com</a>	Executive
Zibby Pyle	617-734-3360	<a href="mailto:zibpyle@gmail.com">zibpyle@gmail.com</a>	Website

**Website: [chanewton.org](http://chanewton.org)**

Send email and address changes to: [admin@chanewton.org](mailto:admin@chanewton.org)