

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

March 2013

Dear Chestnut Hill Neighbors:

SPRING IS HERE AND THAT MEANS IT'S TIME FOR
THE CHESTNUT HILL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

If you haven't joined already, this is your chance!

What Does "Membership" Mean?

A "member" is an individual or family living in Newton within the 02467 zip code who pay membership dues of at least \$40 annually. Contributions are our sole source of funds to pay for all of our activities, community meetings, social events, web site, special projects, newsletters and other mailings.

Why become a member of the CHA?

- **Voting Privileges:** Dues-paying members are entitled to vote to elect officers and board members at our Annual Meeting at a future date.
- **Member Cocktail Party:** Again this year, we are planning a festive cocktail party to be held in May for members only. A special invitation will be mailed in April with the details. Therefore a prompt reply with your dues payment is needed to qualify for this event. (Last year's party was a big success.)
- **CHA Events:** Members will be invited to special events or informative meetings that are geared to the interests and needs of our neighborhood.
- **Get Involved:** Members are eligible to serve in leadership positions in the CHA, serve on our various committees, and help carry out future plans.

How Do I Join?

Fill out and return the enclosed Membership Information Form on the following page with your contact information and your **email address**, together with your check for \$40 or more. Instructions are also available online at www.chanewton.org.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – CHESTNUT HILL ASSOCIATION

Mailing address: Chestnut Hill Association, Box 67173, Chestnut Hill MA 02467

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CHILDREN/AGES (at same address) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Information is not shared or sold, but is used only by the CHA

Please send us news and other notices of events or meetings:

By email ___ **by US Mail** ___ **by both** ___

We would like to find out more about volunteer opportunities. Please contact me about the specific activities checked below:

Traffic/Parking ___ **Social Activities** ___ **Zoning/Development** ___ **Website** ___

Finance ___ **Membership** ___ **Communications** ___ **Community Service** ___

DUES PAYMENT: \$40 ___ **\$75** ___ **\$100** ___ **\$150** ___ **OTHER \$** _____

The minimum dues level of \$40 qualifies you for membership. We welcome larger donations to help defray the operating costs of the Association. (*Dues payments are not deductible as charitable contributions – sorry!*)

Please return this form to the address at the top of this page. Enclose your check payable to “*Chestnut Hill Association*” by April 30. If we don’t receive your dues promptly you may not receive the special invitation to our annual association party planned for May.

We look forward to your reply and participation. If you have any questions, please email dicktucker@hotmail.com or to admin@chanewton.org. **THANK YOU.**

Neighborhood News

CHA Meeting on Public Safety at Church of the Redeemer – Thursday April 4 at 7 p.m. – We are sponsoring a meeting to discuss issues of safety in the neighborhood, reflecting recent break-ins and holdups. The Newton Police will make a presentation with members of other local law enforcement to answer questions and give advice on steps to be safer in our homes and around the neighborhood. All local schools have been invited as well as Bowen elementary and Boston College. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and please bring your friends. The public is invited. No charge.

Houghton Garden Clean-up Day – Saturday, April 6 (Meet inside the gate on Suffolk Road)

Come one, come all to the spring clean-up of our historic neighborhood park, Houghton Garden. Beginning at 9am, we'll be working until around 3pm. Please bring your gloves, long sleeved shirts, hand pruners, and water containers for an opportunity to give back to our community and still have fun in the process. Lunch is provided for all those that toil. For any questions please give Michele Hanss a call at 617-730-8122. This event occurs rain or shine. Muscle building is free.

Override Passed – As reported in the press, more than 17,800 Newton voters cast ballots on three proposals to raise taxes on March 12. All three were approved with 54% to 56% “yes” votes, depending upon the question. The City will be investing in school and fire department buildings, roads, sidewalks, teachers, and police officers. Taxes will increase by 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation; you can check your home’s valuation by logging on to the Assessors database at www.newtonma.gov and clicking on “Assessor’s Database” on the left side of the home page. Fill in your street address and click “search.” The tax increase works out to about \$500 annually on an assessment of \$1,000,000.

Local Development Projects Underway – Construction noise continues day and night from Route 9, and traffic is more of a nightmare than usual, thanks to the disruption of construction equipment and alterations to the Route 9 traffic pattern, making way for a new stoplight between Chestnut Hill Square and the Mall at Chestnut Hill. It’s surprising that there could be enough interest to build so many new business and retail establishments in Chestnut Hill, but someone must think it’s worth the cost.

Chestnut Hill Square – The long-delayed project at the former Omni Market site is moving toward completion, but there is a long way to go. New buildings are up and a few tenants are signed up. The largest tenant will be Wegmans supermarket. Others will be Anthropologie (women’s clothing), Brio Tuscan Grille, Seasons 52, Equinox Fitness Center, and a medical office building. Opening date is supposed to be fall 2013. We’ll see.

“The Street” formerly known as the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center -- WS Development, owner of the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center has made great progress on its newly reorganized and rebranded mall formerly known as the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center. “The Street,” incorporates a number of former stores and restaurants with exciting new tenants. The Sports Club/LA, City Sports, Pottery Barn and Shake Shack are open for business already. Pinkberry, Lululemon Athletica, a cupcake bar, and Showcase Super Lux and Davio’s will open later this spring. Tune into thetreetchestnuthill.com for more information and a handy map.

The Atrium Now the Atrium Center – Across Route 9, the Atrium Mall has been sold and is being converted to medical office space, now known as the “Atrium Center,” as indicated by the large

billboards at the site. Most of the former retail stores have closed or relocated across Route 9 to the Mall at Chestnut Hill or The Street. If you need office space, they'd like to hear from you.

Historic Newton's Annual House Tour on Sunday, May 19 – Tickets for the Newton House Tour go on sale April 1. The tour will take place on Sunday, May 19, from 12 – 5 p.m. Check their website at newtonhistorymuseum.com or call 617-796-1450 for more information.

Walking Tour Guides Wanted – Do you want to learn about the history of Chestnut Hill and share it with your neighbors? Historic Newton is looking for volunteers to guide and lead a walking tour of Chestnut Hill this summer. For more information about this opportunity, contact Melissa Westlake by April 1st at mwestlake@newtonma.gov or 617-796-1456.

Hammond Pond – The Newton Conservation Committee in July 2012 denied the petition of the MA Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) and The Rudyak Family to build the Rudyak Family Floating Walkway. DCR appealed the decision to the MA Department of Environmental Protection., but no decision has been announced yet. We'll post any news or updates on the CHA website.

Local Real Estate Update – Recent data from local realtors indicate that the market for homes in our area has really picked up in the past year. In both Newton and Brookline, home prices for completed sales in 2012 were up three to five percent over 2011. The number of sales completed also rose in both locations, but by a wider margin in Newton than Brookline. The median sales price for single family homes was \$1.2 million in Brookline and \$800,000 in Newton. There were many more single family home sales in Newton vs. Brookline, but Brookline had many more condo sales than Newton. Single family homes took longer to sell, but condos moved faster in Brookline.

Waban Hill Reservoir – The 5 acre site of the Waban Hill Reservoir located on the north side of Commonwealth Avenue, bounded by Manet Road and Ward Street has been declared surplus property by the MWRA. As such an opportunity may present itself to the City of Newton to purchase this site. An Advisory Committee of abutters, Chestnut Hill and Newton residents have formed a working group and are considering passive and active recreational uses. Their ideas and vision for this site will be presented to the City of Newton in April. Nothing is definite yet, but we'll update the CHA website as we discover more about this evolving issue.

Opus Dei Project on Suffolk Road – This renovation/addition at 481 Hammond Street (Opus Dei) is essentially complete outside and is now undergoing interior renovation. This project will likely be complete this coming summer.

Boston College 2013 Football Schedule – The 2013 fall schedule includes the following six home games, when special parking rules will be in effect on nearby streets: Games and dates are shown below.

Saturday August 31 vs. Villanova	Friday night September 6 at 8 pm vs. Wake Forest
Saturday September 28 vs. Florida State	Saturday October 5 vs. Army
Saturday November 2 vs. Virginia Tech	Saturday November 16 vs. North Carolina State

Game times/TV listings not yet available. More details will be posted on www.bceagles.com/sports.

CHA Nominations - Fall Meeting - Volunteers Needed

Evolution in leadership is essential to keep any organization healthy, refreshed and innovative. The CHA is no different, and we are on the lookout for new officers to be elected at our fall meeting. We welcome members who would like to take an active role in any of our committees or as potential officer candidates.

Please forward any suggestions or information that would help us identify members who would add talent, time, and energy to our organization. Sometimes, these individuals don't identify themselves, so we hope all of you will join the search for new blood.

Call any of the Executive Committee members listed below; send a note to Chestnut Hill Association, Box 67173, Chestnut Hill MA 02467; or send an email to our editor, dicktucker@hotmail.com

Thanks for your help and support.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - CONTACT INFORMATION For more information, please contact any of the following:

Name	Phone	Email	Committee
Gloria Gavis	617-480-3646	gavislaw@comcast.net	President
Sue Flicop	617-232-2310	suef@aol.com	Secretary
Elaine Pierce	617-277-1845	pierceelaine@yahoo.com	Treasurer
Ruthanne Fuller	617-738-5311	ruthannefuller@gmail.com	Ex-President
John Grandin	617-566-4406	jgrandin3@gmail.com	Traffic/Parking
Tom Greytak	617-232-1334	greytak@mit.edu`	Development
Michele Hanss	617-730-8122	m.hanss@comcast.net	Houghton Garden
Zibby Pyle	617-734-3360	zibpyle@gmail.com	Website
Jim Taylor	617-738-8746	jctslf@comcast.net	Traffic/Parking
Lauren Thill	Please email	lalu@rcn.com	Social Activities/Website
Dick Tucker	617-232-2540	dicktucker@hotmail.com	Newsletter
Verne Vance	617-232-5494	vvance@rcn.com	Ex-President

Website: chanewton.org

Send email and address changes to: admin@chanewton.org

Find us on FACEBOOK: Chestnut Hill Association