

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

March 2010

Dear Chestnut Hill Neighbors:

With the arrival of Daylight Saving Time and the recent sunny weather, can Opening Day for the Red Sox be far behind? Another season, another reason to hope!

The Chestnut Hill Association continues to be engaged in whatever is happening around the neighborhood, and we hope this newsletter provides you with some useful information. We invite you to share your views and suggestions for topics we might cover in this letter and in our group meetings of the Association. We also welcome anyone who would like to be more involved in our committees. Send a note to the address above, and we'll respond. New blood is always welcome.

SPECIAL EVENT!!

Chestnut Hill Association Cocktail Party – Thursday, April 27

Mark your calendars for the upcoming party at the home of Nancy Adams, 51 Essex Road, Chestnut Hill. All neighbors are invited to attend, so please spread the word. Although this event will be primarily social in nature, we plan to have a brief meeting to elect new officers for the coming year. We are very grateful to Nancy Adams for opening her home to our gathering. A mailing with further details will be coming to your mailbox shortly. Please be sure to respond if you plan to attend.

Communications

As part of our effort to communicate faster and better, we are developing our own website and internet connection. When we hear some news that should be shared with you and if we can post such information on a CHA website, that would be a step forward. (If anyone has web skills and would like to assist in creating a CHA website, please let us know.)

If we have your personal email addresses on file, you will receive information about coming events (see below) more quickly and efficiently. Although we'll continue to publish a hard copy version, keep in mind that we only publish two or three such letters per year. Email is a better medium for spreading the word about quick notes, coming events, and reminders of meetings. Be assured that we do not and will not share your email addresses with anyone else. Please return the form at the end of this letter if you have not already given us your email address.

See You Around, Ruthanne -- Hello Verne!

Ruthanne Fuller, our beloved president, won a landslide victory last November and is now a Ward Seven at-large Alderman. In order to avoid even a hint of conflict of interest, she decided to retire as president of the CHA, but will remain a board member/advisor to continue participating in CHA affairs and events.

Verne Vance, who retired from the Board of Aldermen after a distinguished career in City of Newton leadership, has agreed to be nominated as president to succeed Ruthanne. His name will be put forward for a vote at our next

meeting. Many of you already know Verne and his energetic style, and we do not anticipate much opposition to his candidacy. In fact, we are delighted that he has allowed us to pull him deeper into CHA activities.

We cannot be totally pleased that Ruthanne is stepping aside, because her energy, creativity, leadership and winning smile have made an immeasurable contribution to the life and welfare of our neighborhood association over the past several years. The CHA would not be the healthy, wealthy and wise organization we are today without her time, dedication, and hard work.

The good news, of course, is that Ruthanne now has an important voice in the leadership of our City. Her seat on the Finance Committee will ensure that her years of work with Mal Salter and the Citizen Advisory Group will not fade into obscurity and slide off Newton's agenda.

Other CHA Leadership Changes

In addition to these names, the CHA welcomes new members to its Executive Committee. Tom Greytak, a former president of the CHA, has rejoined the team and brings with him a wealth of experience and longevity in the community. Gloria Gavis, with legal and lobbying job experience on her resume, has also joined the Executive Committee. She brings new ideas and added enthusiasm with her.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

New Shaw's/Star Market/Shopping Center Plans

Now that the new Star Market in the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center has been open for a few months, it is safe to say that it's a huge improvement over the store it replaced, with more variety and a friendly, helpful staff. You don't even have to leave the store to get a hot meal or pizza! In fact, our plea in the last newsletter for "free samples" was answered during the opening celebration. It's nice to have our neighborhood store back.

The Star Market parking lot continues to be a battlefield for cars, trucks, and pedestrians. Be careful out there! A uniformed traffic officer has been hired to help keep things moving in/out of the Hammond Street entrance on weekday afternoons.

Are Your Hungry?

After a lengthy review of parking availability, the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center has received a permit in the retail space next to Legal Seafood (formerly Gardener's Eden) for a full-service 275-seat restaurant. Legal Seafood and Aquitaine have both received permits for outdoor seating of 20 seats and 6 seats respectively. On the ground floor of the Star supermarket, there will be another restaurant with 74 seats, plus retail space of 7,600 square feet. In the upper Chestnut Hill Mall, Bloomingdale's has plans to replace approximately 2500 feet of retail space with a 50-seat Japanese restaurant.

Chestnut Hill Square Development

The long awaited development on the former Omni Market site has not moved forward...yet. The recent downturn in real estate caused by the recession is likely to blame, but we have not heard anything new from New England Development recently. When we hear something more concrete, we'll pass on the news. The developers indicated that their original plans have been scaled back significantly to reduce the scope of the project.

Boston College Master Plan Update

Boston College is moving ahead with the design for the new Stokes Hall (on College Road, between McElroy Commons and Lyons Hall, now a parking space). The project will actually be two buildings connected with a bridge. The 160,000 square foot structure will be comprised of six departments (all in the humanities) occupying 60% of the space. The balance of the space will be used for classrooms, meeting areas, and advising centers.

At the College Road level, it will be two or three stories. The buildings are set on an offset to College Road so there won't be a "wall" of new construction at the edge of the roadway. They hope to finish the designs, get approvals from the City of Newton, and get bids in time to start construction in October 2010. If they begin on time, they expect to move into the building in the fall of 2012.

The Chestnut Hill Association will be very carefully vetting the design and any traffic issues (vehicular and pedestrian) through the construction and full occupancy periods. Let us know if you want to be involved in the review process. (FYI, Boston College does not foresee any changes to the McElroy student center in the next ten years.)

Off-Leash Dog Parks Update

The Dogs Off-Leash Advisory Committee, chaired by Amy Koel, has been disbanded. The functions of that group have been absorbed by the City of Newton Parks & Recreation Department, which is the "owner" of most of the land that could be considered for off-leash dog parks. Having served on the Committee since its inception five years ago, your editor is delighted to be laid off from this job. The City needs to assess and mediate concerns of dog owners and property owners alike. A volunteer group cannot make any official decisions regarding use of public lands. We are hopeful that Newton will someday have a successful off-leash dog program comparable to that of our neighbors in Brookline.

Email Addresses Needed

As noted earlier, we want to use email more frequently for member contact, sending quick notes about upcoming events, reminders about meetings, and other news. However, to be effective we need to collect those email addresses that we don't have on file. Please send your email address to chestnuthillassoc@yahoo.com or mail us the form on the last page of this letter. We will not share your information with anyone else. Thank you for helping us to communicate better.

We welcome questions and ideas from our members. We can use help and volunteers for committees. Keep those cards and letters coming! Thanks for reading, and thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Association,

Dick Tucker

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact any of the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Committee</u>
Verne Vance	617-232-5494	vvance@rcn.com	Executive
Ruthanne Fuller	617-738-5311	ruthannefuller@gmail.com	Executive
John Grandin	617-566-4406		Traffic/Parking
Jim Taylor	617-738-8746	jctslf@comcast.net	Traffic/Parking
Tom Greytak	617-232-1334		Development
Gloria Gavris	617-244-2004		Development
Lauren Thill		lalu@rcn.com	Social Activities
Dick Tucker	617-232-2540	dicktucker@hotmail.com	Newsletter/Membership

(Cut here)

UPDATED MEMBER INFORMATION (Please Print Clearly!)

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Please include your email address, which will not be shared with others

Contributions/Dues

We gladly accept non-deductible voluntary contributions in any amount, payable to “Chestnut Hill Association.” Our average donation is about \$50, but any amount will help to offset the costs of this newsletter, meetings, and social activities. Thank you for your support!!

New Neighbors?

As neighbors come and go, our mailing list gets out of date pretty quickly. Please send us names and addresses of any new neighbors. We'll add them to our list and send them details about the CHA.

Mail to: Chestnut Hill Association, Box 67173, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467