

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

October 2011

Dear Chestnut Hill Neighbors:

Our Mission

The Chestnut Hill Association serves the Newton 02467 neighborhood. We try to educate, inform, entertain, and otherwise stay involved with local events and issues. This newsletter provides an update on (very) local news. We welcome your comments and ideas.

(Heartbreaking) Red Sox News

The Red Sox season is over. After a terrible start, a wonderful middle, and a meltdown in September, we have to wait (again) 'til next year. You may disagree, but this is a vital local issue, and a nightmare.

Trick or Treat!

The annual Halloween Party will take place at the end of October for kids in the neighborhood wearing their best costumes. Details will be posted on the website, so stay tuned for exact details in the next few weeks by checking chanewton.org for time, date, and location.

Annual Meeting – June 2011

At the 2011 annual meeting of the CHA in June, two new officers were elected as follows:

President – Gloria Gavis Secretary – Sue Flicop

We are grateful to Verne Vance, who retired as president but will continue to serve on our Executive Committee. His brains and long experience in Newton government were great benefits to the CHA, and we're delighted that he won't drop out of sight. Gloria Gavis brings energy and skill to her position, and we look forward to her leadership in the coming year. Sue Flicop, another newcomer to our board, has long been active in Newton schools and various local charitable and civic groups. We also welcome her to the team. Please see a more complete list of officers and committee members at the end of this letter.

Local News

Hammond Street Bridge Closing

The recently announced closing of the Hammond Street bridge to make repairs will probably occur in the next week or so. Details may change, but for now, the bridge may only be closed on weekend nights, not all day. Please check the CHA website for more details (chanewton.org).

Six Off-Leash Dog Parks Now Open

The Parks and Recreation Commission manages off-leash dog parks program with the advice and support of the Off-Leash Area Working Group. The six current locations are Old Cold Spring Park, Newton Centre Playground, Claflin Playground, plus three fenced-in parks, Cabot, Hunnewell, and McGrath. Four additional locations are in the review process and by the end of the year, Newton could have a total of ten off-leash parks available to dog owners. Chestnut Hill dog owners will find Old Cold Spring Park the closest of the approved locations. (Enter at 1200 Beacon Street.)

To use the dog parks, every dog must be vaccinated and licensed in Newton and carry a permit tag that costs \$50 per year. Details are available at www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/DogInformation/index.htm.

Waterworks Museum

The new Waterworks Museum has opened. Located across from the Chestnut Hill Reservoir at 2450 Beacon Street, the Museum incorporates the original pumping station for the reservoir, built in 1887. Designed in the style of H. H. Richardson, it is an historic architectural landmark. "Water Day at the Reservoir" is tentatively set for Saturday, October 22 to commemorate the opening of the Boston water system on October 25, 1848.

The museum is open on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed on Monday and Tuesday. The museum also makes available function rooms for private events. Many more details and historical photos are available on the website, www.waterworksmuseum.org. (Tel: 617-277-0065.)

Hammond Pond Project

The proposed plan to "improve" Hammond Pond, the 22-acre pond behind the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center (AMC movie theater, Legal Seafoods, Star Market, etc.) has not been approved, although certain sponsors are still involved in the project. A public hearing was held in March, including a wide range of supporters and opponents. The DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation) will be having a public meeting soon to review the plans, the feasibility study, and long-term requirements for ecological improvements. The project design and proposed schedule will also be reviewed at that time. No date has been announced yet. We'll try to alert you via email when time and place are set. Check our website.

Opus Dei Project

Work has started on the addition and renovation of the house at 481 Hammond Street, at the corner of Hammond Street and Suffolk Road. The addition will have a chapel, kitchen, meeting rooms and bedrooms. The interior of the existing house will receive an updating and some rooms will be reconfigured. The addition will be completed in the spring of 2012, and the renovations to the house should be finished by the end of next year. The house is associated with Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church, which encourages people to seek holiness in everyday life. Joe Billmeier is the director of the house and welcomes any comments or questions: 617-738-7348 or email at jbillmeier@comcast.net.

Proposed Newton 9/11 Memorial

You may have seen or heard of a proposed project to honor the Newton residents who died ten years ago on 9/11. A private group is working to raise money and obtain approval from the City to proceed with plans for an outdoor memorial at or near City Hall. The project has moved through the preliminary stage, and a public hearing will be held before the Parks & Recreation Commission on Monday, October 17 at 7 p.m. in the War Memorial Auditorium at City Hall. See also: www.newton9-11.org.

Boston College News and Construction Update

BC continues to build the new Stokes Hall along College Road, with significant progress made during the summer. The building is about half completed and should be closed in before winter. There is a virtual tour on the web at www.bc.edu/stokeshall. Completion is scheduled for a year from now.

BC plans to install a pedestrian stoplight on Beacon Street at Lawrence Ave. Newton Police are making efforts (undercover) to ensure safety for students and pedestrians along that stretch of Beacon Street. Please stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk there (and everywhere else).

The BC stop on the MBTA green line may eventually move to the other side of Thomas More Road.

If you have an issue with BC students in your neighborhood, you may call Steve Montgomery, Off-Campus Student Community Liaison at 617-552-6028 or email him at Stephen.montgomery@bc.edu.

Boston College Remaining Home Football Schedule – Fall 2011

Oct. 1	Wake Forest	(Saturday)	12:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	Florida State	(Thursday)	8 p.m. ESPN TV
Nov. 12	NC State	(Saturday)	Time TBA

Game times and TV coverage will be announced later. Check your local listings. As always, parking in the neighborhood will be prohibited from two hours before the game begins until two hours after the end of the game. Police will be on duty to issue citations and authorize towing of offending vehicles.

Update on Shopping Malls

Chestnut Hill Square Development

New England Development has begun work at the former Omni Market location on Route 9 with demolition of the former buildings on the site. Look for a lot of construction on Route 9 next summer.

Chestnut Hill Shopping Center

The strip of stores including Century Bank, City Sports, Legal Seafood, and the Cottage Restaurant will undergo some renovation or enlargement in the future. The Century Bank/CitySports end of the mall will be changed from one to three stories, including retail space and more parking on the Route 9 side. Legal Seafood and the Cottage Restaurant will not change at this time.

Atrium Mall

Anyone who has visited the Atrium recently knows that many of the spaces that formerly were occupied are now vacant, and there are few signs of life in those that are still open for business. One clerk said, "Can you find me a new job? This one may not last until Christmas." Tiffany, one of the key tenants, is moving across the street to the Chestnut Hill Mall in mid-November. We understand that the restaurants (Cheesecake Factory, Bertucci's, etc.) will stay there, but the retail spots may be converted to office space. Rumors abound, but facts are scarce at this time.

The Mall at Chestnut Hill

Thanks to the anchor stores at the Mall, more traffic is visible. The property managers appear to be consolidating retail operations there rather than at the Atrium, also in the Simon Property portfolio. If you are looking for retail space, there are plenty of opportunities in Chestnut Hill!

In Other News....

Sidewalk Snow Shoveling – Be Prepared for Winter!

Newton recently passed a trial ordinance requiring all residents to shovel their sidewalks within 30 hours following a snowstorm. The two-year trial will get its first test in the coming winter. No fines will be issued during the trial period. We hope that the City will ensure that plows do not leave the mountains of snow blocking intersections and handicap-access ramps that were so numerous, dangerous and annoying after last season's many heavy storms. A reminder of the rules has been inserted in our recent water bills. You can also check www.newtonma.gov/snow for more info.

Residents should make best efforts to comply, enlist volunteers to shovel for them, or pay someone to do the work. You may call 617-796-1600. Residents with no sidewalk are off the hook, and the City may do the job on the busiest streets. We'll wait and see what happens.

Check the CHA Website

Our website (www.chanewton.org) is running and an efficient way to communicate with our neighbors. The paper newsletter will continue to review and update information that affects our community, but the website and email contact will be faster to deliver news you can use about traffic changes, meetings, or other timely events. Please be sure that we have your email address. (You can know we have your email address if you receive emails from the CHA.) Register your contact information on the website by email to admin@chanewton.org. Remember that we will not share your email addresses with anyone else.

Watch Your Mail for Special Membership Information

In the near future, you should receive a special mailing with important information about membership in the CHA. Please read it carefully and respond promptly.

Volunteers Needed for CHA Committees

If you are available and would like to help organize our social activities and special events, please let Lauren Thill know via email to lalu@rcn.com. She can describe the opportunity in detail and encourage you to join the fun. We're always interested in finding people to help our committees get the job done. Also, if you would like to volunteer to help any other committee, let us know by contacting anyone on the list below.

Please Stay in Touch With Us

It's hard to keep track of all the folks moving into or away from Chestnut Hill. We hope you will introduce your own new neighbors to the CHA and you can help us keep our address and member files up to date. Just send an email or a note to let us know if you have new neighbors who might like to get information about the CHA, and we'll contact them. Thanks for your continued support!

Sincerely, on behalf of the CHA,

Dick Tucker

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