

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

September 2013

Dear Chestnut Hill Neighbors:

Greetings and welcome to our fall Newsletter. The leaves are changing and Chestnut Hill is a beautiful place to be! Our Newsletter will provide you with Newton news and happenings. Enjoy it, and I hope to see you around the neighborhood and at our Annual Meeting next month. I want to take this opportunity to thank our “retiring” members of the CHA Executive Committee who have volunteered their time and talents over many years. A big heartfelt neighborhood thank you to Ruthanne Fuller, Michele Hanss, Tom Greytak, Lauren Thill and Sue Flicop. We look forward to formally welcoming our new Committee members at our Annual Meeting. Until then, Happy Fall!

Gloria M Gavris
President, CHA

Sports Report

The Red Sox have won the A.L. Eastern Division, and they’re headed for the playoffs in early October. From “worst” in 2012 to “first” in 2013 – you’ve got to love that! It’s too soon to claim the pennant. But so far, so good! Keep the faith and Go Sox! In other news, the Patriots have started their season 3 and 0, but it’s a long way to go to the Super Bowl.

Annual Meeting – 7 p.m., Thursday, October 17th, at Longyear Museum

The CHA annual meeting is on Thursday, October 17th at the Longyear Museum, located at the corner of Route 9 (Boylston Street) and Dunster Road, opposite the tennis courts. This is a beautiful building and meeting place, and we encourage all members to attend. Watch the CHA website for any further details. (Guest speaker to be announced). Limited parking is available at the Museum but there is plenty of parking on Dunster Road. Doors open at 6:30 PM, Meeting at 7:00 PM.

Boston College Football Home Game Schedule

As noted on the street signs around Chestnut Hill, BC has four remaining 2013 home football games:

September 28 – Florida State – 3:30 p.m. – ABC-TV – Parents Weekend
October 5 – Army – TBA – Homecoming Weekend,
Friday night, October 4th at 8:00 PM - Fireworks on Shea Field
November 2 – Virginia Tech - TBA
November 16 – NC State – TBA

For updated info, check www.bceagles.com/football. Police will be on duty to discourage parking on local neighborhood streets before, during, and after the games. Call BC Police with any complaints on your street. (617-552-4440) or their Community Hotline at (617-552-2443)

Road/traffic Updates

The ongoing gridlock in Chestnut Hill, especially on Beacon Street, Hammond Street, and Route 9, shows no signs of abating, even though the recent paving job in Newton Centre is finished (nice job!).

CHA representatives have met with Newton Aldermen, Newton Traffic & Parking Officials, Brookline Department of Transportation, and representatives from The Street and Chestnut Hill Square to review the continual bottleneck at the entrance to the Shaw's/Star Market parking lot. This part of the property is in Brookline, and it's clear that there is no quick and easy "fix" to the problem.

WS Development (owner of Shaw's Market and The Street) has plans before the Brookline Zoning Board of Appeals to widen the CVS driveway from Hammond Street and build a pedestrian sidewalk into the parking lot. The MA Department of Transportation "owns" Route 9 and the traffic light at the intersection of Hammond Street and Rt. 9. These diverse interests make this situation and potential solutions challenging. The CHA will continue to work toward a mutually beneficial resolution.

Bike Lanes

The bike lanes on Beacon Street are actually being used by people on bicycles and are clearly marked to keep other traffic at a safe distance. There are lots of bikes and riders in and around Chestnut Hill, so be careful out there! They may be our friends.

Local Elections – Tuesday November 5

After the recent preliminary elections, the final voting for Mayor will be on November 5, with Setti Warren, the incumbent, facing Alderman Ted Hess-Mahan in the final runoff. There are also one contested Aldermanic election and one School Committee position that will be on the Chestnut Hill ballot. So, get out there and surprise those poll workers by actually showing up.

Waban Hill Reservoir

The City of Newton is considering the purchase of the little-known Waban Hill Reservoir, across Commonwealth Avenue, behind Boston College near Ward Street and Manet Road. The MWRA has determined that the reservoir is no longer needed for public water supply. This is a five-acre parcel in the middle of a quiet residential neighborhood that could be designated for public enjoyment in either active or passive recreation. It's still in the initial stages of planning and review, not a done deal.

Newton has approved spending \$30,000 for an engineering study in advance of any decision to bid on the property. An active local neighborhood Advisory Group met for several months and has provided the Aldermen with an outline of various options for re-use. You can find the detailed extensive report at http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/current/devrev/hip/manet_road.asp.

Hammond Pond Project

The proposed plan to build a floating walkway on Hammond Pond, the 22-acre pond behind The Street, formerly the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center (AMC movie theater, Legal Seafoods, Star Market, etc.) is

still under review by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Newton Conservation Committee denied the MA Department of Conservation & Recreation request in July 2012, and DCR appealed their decision to the DEP last year. One of the key concerns is the health of Hammond Pond itself. There is considerable support for dealing with the environmental risks and hazards before any project plans can proceed. We'll keep you posted

Update on Shopping Malls -- Chestnut Hill Square

With an anticipated opening in November, the CH Square will welcome Brio Tuscan Grill, Panera Bread, Red Mango and Seasons 52 for your dining pleasure and the long awaited and anticipated Wegmans Supermarket. Roadway and lighting changes on Route 9 may ease the traffic flow and access to the new mall. Other retailers at this location will include Anthropologie, Athleta and PaperSource. The Equinox Health Club plans to open by year-end, with free parking and child care for members! There appears to be plenty of available retail space, but negotiations are underway for some tenants.

The Street, formerly Chestnut Hill Shopping Center

The Street continues to grow with new tenants and now offers entertainment during the weekends outside. It has become a popular destination for shopping, dining, and movies. Construction continues at the former site of Century Bank and City Sports, with four new retailers planned on the bottom floor, Del Frisco's Steak House on the second floor, overlooking Hammond Pond, and the corporate offices of WS Development (The Street's owner/developer) will be on the third floor. Expected Openings are scheduled for early 2014. The last and final stage of renovations will be the AMC movie theatre building. There was no line to get into Shake Shack at noon on Monday.

The Mall at Chestnut Hill

Thanks to the Apple Store and Bloomingdales at the Mall, more retail traffic is obvious. After losing Charlie's Saloon, Papa-Razzi (our favorite) and Bernards (now located at The Street), new restaurants in the Mall will include the relocated Cheesecake Factory, Besito Mexican Restaurant, and Tokyo Japanese Steak House. There are lots of new dining choices in the neighborhood now – who needs to cook anymore? Other recent retail arrivals are J. Crew (from the Atrium), Tumi, and Cusp, Vineyard Vines, LUSH Cosmetics, Lucy, and Madewell. Many of last year's vacancies are now occupied.

Atrium Mall

Most stores have vacated the building, and current plans are for medical offices. The Cheesecake Factory is relocating across the street to the Mall at Chestnut Hill in late October.

Newton Recycling – The Best Ways to Get Rid of Stuff You Don't Need

Recycling of almost everything is a big business in Newton. For example, you can call 1-877-545-4113 to make an appointment to have your old refrigerator or freezer picked up, as an example, and you will receive a \$50 bounty for these appliances. For bulky TV sets and computer monitors, there is a 12 fee whether you take them to the Newton Recycling Center at 115 Rumford Ave or arrange a weekend pickup. No charge for smaller electronics. If you need to schedule a curbside pickup at your home, call 617-786-1000 and pay in advance.

If you would like to have your very own home composting bin, visit the Customer Service desk at City Hall and pay for either of two models that can later be picked up at Rumford Ave. Resource Recovery Center. For more information, see the website, newtonma.gov or call City Hall at 617-796-1000.

The newtonma.gov website has much more specific information. Search the home page for “recycling.”

CHA’s Mission

The Chestnut Hill Association provides information and news about the Newton 02467 neighborhood. We try to educate, inform, and keep you posted on local events and issues. We welcome your feedback and encourage you to log on to www.chanewton.org or find us on Facebook for the latest information.

Executive Committee - New Members

We welcome five new members of our Executive Committee: Peggy Baseman, Jean Fulkerson, Marguerite D’Annolfo, Peter Vieira, and Ken Lyons. We hope you will meet them at our October meeting. We’re delighted to have such a diverse and talented group helping to carry out the CHA mission. For your reference, we include a list of the Executive Committee members on the next page.

Membership Information

Although we conduct our annual membership appeal in the early spring, the CHA is always ready to enroll new members. If you know of anyone who recently moved into the neighborhood, please forward the names and addresses to our website admin@chanewton.org or email dicktucker@hotmail.com, and we’ll get information to them promptly.

Volunteers Needed

We are always eager to enlist volunteers to assist in committees or events, and if you are available to help, let us know what areas you are interested in. We’re especially looking for 1) someone to identify and provide information to potential new members and 2) someone else to be responsible for meetings and social activities. Let us know if you would like to assist the CHA.

Check the enclosed list of our Executive Committee and contact any of us. Thanks for your support!

Sincerely, on behalf of the CHA,

Dick Tucker

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Executive Committee

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For more information, please contact any of the following:

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