

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

March 2014

Dear Chestnut Hill Neighbors:

Welcome to spring! We can all watch the snow disappear, the tulips sprout, and temperatures rise above freezing! This also means that it's time for

THE CHESTNUT HILL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

Please join now or renew your membership. It's quick and easy.

“Membership” includes those who live in Newton and pay dues of at least \$40 annually. Dues 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.

Here are Some Benefits of Membership in the CHA

- **Members' Cocktail Party May 8:** Save the date of Thursday, May 8, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for our annual members' cocktail party which will be held at a unique and special Chestnut Hill property. This event is limited to those members whose current year's dues have been received by the CHA. A special invitation will be mailed in April with the details. Please respond with your dues now to ensure that you receive the invitation. (Last year's party was a big success.)
- **Voting Privileges:** Dues-paying members are entitled to vote to elect officers and board members at our Annual Meeting.
- **Other CHA Events:** Members are invited to special events or informative meetings geared to the interests and needs of our neighborhood.
- **Participation:** We are always looking for members to serve on our various committees, and help carry out our mission. Let us know if you'd like to help.

How to Join

Fill out and return the Membership Information Form on the next page with your contact information and **email address**, with your check for \$40 or more. Larger donations are always welcome! Instructions are also available online at www.chanewton.org.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – CHESTNUT HILL ASSOCIATION

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

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CHILDREN/AGES (at same address) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Contact information is never shared or sold, but is used only by the CHA

Indicate how notices or newsletters should be sent to you:

By email ___ **by US Mail** ___ (email is faster and less costly)

If you would like to volunteer, please indicate below activities of interest to you:

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

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

2014 Dues PAYMENT: \$40 ___ **\$75** ___ **\$100** ___ **\$150** ___ **OTHER \$** _____

Your dues payment of \$40 or more qualifies you for membership. Make your check payable to “Chestnut Hill Association.” We welcome larger donations to help defray the operating costs of the Association. (*Dues payments are not tax deductible as charitable contributions – sorry!*)

Invitations to our annual party will be sent to those who have replied and paid their dues by April 20. Dues are welcome anytime, but we need to have your payment before you will receive an invitation for the special event.

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

What's happening in and around Chestnut Hill?

On April 2, the Red Sox 2014 season starts in Baltimore for two games. The home opener (already sold out) will be Friday, April 4, with three games against the Brewers and three more against the Rangers. Let's hope for a repeat of 2013's great success, and cheer for the home team no matter what.

Coming Events

Friday and Saturday, April 4-5 – Newton Open Studios – The spring art show at various locations around the City will feature works by 180 different artists from the area, including painting, jewelry, photography, and ceramics. Look for signs at the usual places. More info in the Tab.

Saturday, April 5 – Houghton Garden Clean-up Day – Volunteers are needed to help do a spring cleaning in Houghton Garden, our special neighborhood oasis of trees, shrubs, ponds, streams, and wildlife. Starting at 9 a.m. by the Suffolk Road gate, bring your gloves, a rake, pruning clippers, and your energy to get the area ready for viewing. Lunch will be provided for those who can make it, and meet new and old friends. For information, call Michele Hanss at 617-730-8122.

Sunday, April 6 – Concert by Boston Symphony musicians at 8 p.m. at Church of the Redeemer, Hammond Street. Tickets are \$20 purchased in advance (call 617-566-7679), \$25 at the door, and \$10 for students. Music by 19th and 20th century composers. Featured performers include Keisuke Wakao, oboe, Thomas Martin, clarinet, and Mihail Jojatu, cello. This is the final concert in this season's series.

Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m. – Historic Newton and the Newton Free Library will give a free presentation called "Four Centuries of Chestnut Hill, with discussion of the changes since its early days as a primarily rural village. The lecture will review the growth of Chestnut Hill into a fashionable suburb complete with railroad access from Boston. Free admission.

Boston College Coming Events:

Spring Football game – Saturday, April 12 (Fall game schedule available on bceagles.com.)

Commencement (college) - Monday, May 19 (Law School Friday, May 23)

McMullen Museum, now to June 8– Paris Night and Day, wonderful photography exhibit.

Saturday, April 19, Heartbreak Hill Road race – From noon to 3 p.m. starting at City Hall, with races for various ages covering one mile up Heartbreak Hill and back. For registration information see details on NewtonCommunityPride.org or call 617-796-1540. Register at City Hall by April 18. Prizes!

Monday, April 21 – The 118th Boston Marathon will be run with different groups starting from Hopkinton between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Despite the horrific events of last year's bombing at the finish line, 2014 will prove to be as crowded as ever both on the course and on the sidelines. Security will especially be tight, and we're hoping for good weather and no trouble. Traffic and parking will be significantly restricted. Check your paper for more details before the day of the race.

Sunday, April 27 – Wegman’s, the long-awaited grocery and liquor superstore will have its grand opening with 80,000 square feet of food and drink. The store is one of the anchors in Chestnut Hill Square, the former Omni Supermarket site. It may be a major tourist attraction in the early weeks, and its popularity may test the efficiency of the newly constructed traffic lanes and stoplights.

Thursday, May 8 – Save the date! The annual CHA members-only cocktail party from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Details will be announced within the next few weeks, but the event will be held at one of Chestnut Hill’s most interesting and unique homes.

Sunday, May 18 – Historic Newton Annual House Tour – A tour of several distinctive homes from Noon to 5 p.m. Tickets on sale April 1 online at www.historicnewton.org. or phone (617-796-1450).

June 6 – June 8 – Runner’s World Heartbreak Hill Half Marathon and Festival will be held at the Boston College campus, with music, kids’ races, and 5K and 10K races on Saturday, June 7 and a half marathon on Sunday. More details and registration on heartbreak@runnersworld.com.

Sunday, June 15 – 2nd Annual Tour de Newton A bike tour of 20 miles through all 13 villages of Newton. If you would like to be a Chestnut Hill Greeter to welcome the “tourists” during the morning, please contact Jerry Reilly at 617-999-5300 to find out more about this special event.

In Other News

Please check chanewton.org for updates on local developments.

Opus Dei Project on Suffolk Road – The renovation/addition at 481 Hammond Street (Opus Dei) is nearing the finish line. Interior finishing work continues, but the disruption of earlier seasons is finished.

Hammond Street Entrance to CVS and Star Market – WS Development, which owns The Street shopping center between Hammond Street and Hammond Pond Parkway, has received approval from Brookline Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals for safety and access improvements at the entrance to the parking lot off of Hammond Street. Improvements include a sidewalk and retaining wall along the residential side of the driveway. In addition, WS Development plans to paint the street with a “Don’t Block the Box” reminder and post a more visible street sign calling attention to the entry and exit driveway. If the town removes three parking meters across Hammond Street at the parking lot entrance, WS Development will compensate Brookline \$15,000 per year for lost revenue. The final language in the Special Permit Decision is being worked out and WS Development hopes to conclude the zoning process in the next few months.

Hammond Pond Floating Walkway – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has approved a significantly scaled down version of the originally proposed “floating walkway.” Presently under consideration is a walkway connecting two piers at the western end of the pond, close to the employees’ parking lot near the Hammond Pond Parkway. There will also be a handicapped accessible interior walkway through the DCR wooded area nearby. In addition, the Rudyak family has pledged maintenance funds of \$10,000 per year for ten years. The project includes improvements to the pond, the landscaping, and nearby DCR pathways. Final plans and permits have not been issued by the state agencies involved. We know of no further action by the City of Newton at this time.

Waban Hill Reservoir – The five-acre site of the Waban Hill Reservoir located on the north side of Commonwealth Avenue, bounded by Manet Road and Ward Street, is a candidate for purchase by the City of Newton. Such properties rarely become available. Various plans are being discussed, focused primarily on preserving open space and passive or low-impact recreation. To examine the reservoir itself more carefully, an engineering analysis of the site is being conducted. The results of such examination may influence future use of the entire site. We'll keep you posted on this interesting but complex project. Whatever is eventually done, it should be a benefit to Newton, where parks are treasures to be preserved. Based on existing legal zoning provisions, this property is not eligible for commercial or residential development. Although the wheels turn slowly, the property will require significant expense by the City regardless of its final use.

Help Wanted – Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission – This important Commission which approves, modifies, or rejects building plans for homes and structures in the Historic District is considering letters of interest from residents who could be available to attend monthly meetings on Thursday evenings. If interested, please send a letter with a current resume to Reenie Murphy via email at rmurphy@newtonma.gov.

Newton Villages Alliance - A new local interest group seeking to review and discuss current development issues in the City, is looking for new members in order to have representation from all 13 Newton villages. Goals include preserving the character of Newton's villages and neighborhoods; educate and inform residents about matters of local concern and interest; and to ensure that residents are listened to and heard in the decision-making process. Contact Ron Mauri at 617-965-5842 or ronmauri43@gmail.com for more information.

Thanks for your support!

In the past decade, we have tried to carry out our primary mission to inform, educate, engage, and even entertain residents of the Chestnut Hill neighborhood. Your dues have supported these efforts, and this organization is only as strong and effective as our members. It's your association; we're here to help.

Since we operate on a limited budget with no hired staff, all the work is done by volunteers who arrange events, go to meetings at City Hall, and try to stay up to date on whatever is going on in the City that affects our neighborhood. Our Ward 7 Aldermen are also here to help: Lisle Baker, Ruthanne Fuller, and Mark Laredo. You can contact them through newtonma.gov.

Our CHA website, chanewton.org, is increasingly important in our communications with you. Items of interest or importance can be posted on the website much more promptly than we can produce a newsletter or postcard mailing. That's why it's important that we have your email addresses. We pledge to keep that information private and confidential, for the use of the CHA only. We don't sell address lists!

We are always eager to broaden our "reach" in Chestnut Hill, and if you have a new neighbor, please contact us with their name and address, and we'll send them information about the CHA. We're in the process of updating our mailing list, to include new listings from the City of Newton Elections Commission voter list. That review should add a few dozen new names to replace those who are no longer our neighbors. Every

time we send out a letter, we get back undelivered mail from the Post Office to drop names from our list, but those notices don't include the names of the new occupants.

We depend on your ideas, questions, concerns, and advice to keep our focus on things that matter to you. So, don't be shy. Let us know what's on your minds, and we'll try to respond thoughtfully and politely. The contact list of Executive Committee members shown below is for your convenience. Feel free to get in touch with any of us, and if we don't know the answer to your questions, we'll try to find out or guide you to someone who may help.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Dick Tucker

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 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	gavrislaw@comcast.net	President/Clerk
Elaine Pierce	617-277-1845	pierceelaine@yahoo.com	Treasurer
Peggy Baseman	617-965-1220	pbaseman@hotmail.com	Social Activities
Marguerite D'Annolfo	617-232-6218	mrdannolfo@comcast.net	Membership
Jean Fulkerson	617-916-1661	jean.fulkerson@gmail.com	Zoning/Development
John Grandin	617-566-4406	jgrandin3@gmail.com	Traffic/Parking
Ken Lyons	617-262-5300	lyonsassociates@verizon.net	Zoning
Zibby Pyle	617-734-3360	zibpyle@gmail.com	Communications/Website
Jim Taylor	617-738-8746	jctslf@gmail.com	Traffic/Parking
Dick Tucker	617-232-2540	dicktucker@hotmail.com	Newsletter
Peter Vieira	617-670-4138	pvieira@payette.com	Zoning
Verne Vance	617-232-5494	vvance@rcn.com	Executive

Website: chanewton.org Send email or address changes to admin@chanewton.org

Find us on FACEBOOK: Chestnut Hill Association