

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

April 2015

**Dear Chestnut Hill Neighbors:**

After the past winter, it's good to watch the rest of the snow disappear, just in time for the Marathon on April 20. And, of course, the new season for our Red Sox is underway. It's also time for:

***THE CHESTNUT HILL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.***

Please join now or renew your membership, which provides our sole source of funds to pay for our activities, community meetings, social events, web site, special projects, newsletters and other mailings. Consider these features:

- **Members' Cocktail Party May 7:** Save Thursday, May 7, for our annual members' cocktail party at a special Chestnut Hill home. Invitations with full details will be mailed to all members who have paid their 2015 dues of at least \$50 (or more) by April 25<sup>th</sup>. Please respond right away, and we will send your invitation promptly. We hope for a big turnout, and we're using the same great caterer we've had in recent years.
- **Member Privileges:** Dues-paying members are entitled to vote to elect officers and board members at our Annual Meeting. Members serve on our working committees to carry out our mission: to educate, inform, represent, and engage our mutual neighbors and friends in Chestnut Hill. (See the list on page 4 for contact information. We welcome your ideas and help.)
- **Other CHA Events:** All members and neighbors are invited to special events or informative meetings geared to the interests and needs of our neighborhood. A good example is the recent informative presentation by the developers of the "new" Atrium medical center mall on Route 9.

Fill out and return the Membership Information Form on the last page with your contact information, email address, and your payment of \$50 or more. Larger donations are always welcome! Instructions are also available online at [www.chanewton.org](http://www.chanewton.org).

***What's happening in and around Chestnut Hill?***

**Winter's Over! Spring Ahead to the May Festival of the Arts**

Are you ready for a chance to hear cool jazz or attend an evening concert of classical music? Perhaps you would choose an art exhibit, fashion show or an award-winning opera performance? Newton's May Festival of the Arts has all of that, and you're invited!

Mayor Setti Warren has declared May "*Festival of the Arts Month*," to include city-wide events celebrating the talent and diversity of Newton residents in arts, theatre, dance, opera, jazz, and folk music. Newton Community Pride and the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs have partnered with 60 Newton arts and cultural organizations, businesses and many volunteer committee members to

organize the May 2015 Festival of the Arts. Proceeds from several events will support Newton's four food pantries and our nonprofit art, cultural and social service organizations so that they may continue to serve and support our residents and artists.

Former president of the Chestnut Hill Association, Gloria Gavis, is Chair of the Festival of the Arts Committee. A full calendar can be found at [www.newtoncommunitypride.org/festival](http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/festival). For more information, please call Linda Plaut, City of Newton Director of Cultural Affairs at 617-796-1540.

### **Update on the new Atrium Mall**

Members of the CHA and Board of Aldermen met with the developer, safety consultant, and lawyer for Bulfinch Group, the owner of the Atrium, to review progress. Bulfinch expects to complete construction in the next six to nine months and is ready to sign new tenants. In anticipation of some prospective medical or life sciences tenants, the owners requested and received a permit from Newton's Board of Aldermen to allow approximately 50,000 square feet to be used for bio research laboratories, at levels no higher than Level 1 or 2, similar to what exists in doctors' offices.

There are several labs around Boston, but Newton has very strict requirements for any such facilities, including design review, safety procedures, building standards, and oversight of any biological or DNA research. Through our meetings and the approval process, Bulfinch agreed to reduce the space dedicated to labs from 100,000 to 50,000 square feet. They also agreed to pursue retail and restaurant options on the first floor to preserve open spaces within the building. As a result of the review process, members of the CHA Executive Committee and Aldermen expressed confidence with the proposed project. No tenants have signed up yet, however, and if you want more information, call the Bulfinch Group.

### **“City Council” to replace “Board of Aldermen”**

Concerned about the gender bias inherent in the word “Aldermen,” the Board of Aldermen recently voted 19-5 to amend the City Charter to change the legislative body to be a City Council. Starting January 1, call us City Councilors! Other gendered references in the City's Charter were adopted: “Chairman” is now “Chair,” “School Committeeman” is “School Committee member.” The measure now goes to the Mass State House to be passed by the Legislature as a home rule petition. (This should pass easily.)

### **Second Water Meters**

In December, the Board of Aldermen voted to allow residents to purchase a second water meter to allow separate metering of outdoor water use. With the current single meters, homeowners who irrigate are being charged a sewer fee even though irrigation water is not going through the sewer system. Residents interested in obtaining an outdoor water meter had to register with the Public Utilities Division by April 1, 2015. But, if you missed this year's deadline, you can sign up next year, probably between January 1st and April 1st.

The City has estimated that most residents who use at least 40 HCFs of water outdoors during the warmer weather months may want to consider investing in a second meter. (Check your bill to see how much water you use; “HCF” stands for “hundred cubic feet.”) For more details, go to [www.newtonma.gov/secondmeter](http://www.newtonma.gov/secondmeter)

The Board of Aldermen is restructuring the rates for water, sewer and stormwater to have sufficient funds to do maintenance and improvements. For the City as a whole, the total increase for all three will increase about 4% but individual homeowners are likely to see some variation.

### **Plastic Bags Banned**

Concerned about the environmental impact, the Board of Aldermen voted to ban single-use, 3 mil plastic bags in larger retail stores starting in July 2015. These are the bags we get at Shaw's/Star Market or Wegman's. The CVS at Hammond Street and Route 9 has already changed to paper. The ban does not include produce, dry-cleaning and newspaper bags. Start bringing your own reusable bags, or otherwise you will be getting paper bags.

### **Waban Hill Reservoir**

The funding and plan for the acquisition and restoration of the five-acre site of the Waban Hill Reservoir, bounded by Manet Road and Ward Street, have been approved by the Board of Aldermen at a meeting in March. Various additional studies are being prepared, and it will be at least a year before the property is opened to the public. We will provide updates as more details become available in the coming months.

### **Leaf Blower Restrictions?**

Some Aldermen have docketed an item that would impose a seasonal ban (no leaf blowers except from March 15 to either May 15 or June 15 and from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15) for three or four years and then disallow leaf blowers year round in 2018. The purpose is to protect the environment and health of residents from noise, fumes, dust and debris. What do you think? Please email Alderman Ruthanne Fuller and Alderman Lisle Baker at [rfuller@newtonma.gov](mailto:rfuller@newtonma.gov) and [lbaker@newtonma.gov](mailto:lbaker@newtonma.gov).

### **Snow – Wow!**

The City of Newton received 103.08" of snow this winter. (The five year average for snowfall is 54".) Our estimated cost for the snow removal is \$7,825,000. By the way, when you see (or feel) a pothole, report it on the Newton website (go on [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov) and look on the front page for the 311 box). Potholes that are reported get fixed sooner. Some of the worst ones on Hammond Street have been filled more than once.

### **Thanks for your support!**

We believe our primary mission is to inform, educate, engage, and represent residents of the Chestnut Hill neighborhood. Our budget is very small with no paid employees, and the work is done by volunteers who arrange events, go to meetings at City Hall, and stay up to date on whatever is going on in the City that affects our neighborhood. Our Ward 7 Aldermen are also helpful: Lisle Baker, Ruthanne Fuller, and Mark Laredo. You can contact them through [newtonma.gov](http://newtonma.gov).

Our website, [chanewton.org](http://chanewton.org), is increasingly important in our contact with you. We can report items of interest on the website faster than we can produce a mailing, and it's important that we have your email addresses. We keep that information confidential and 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. Please forward any new names to [dicktucker@hotmail.com](mailto:dicktucker@hotmail.com), and we’ll send them information on the CHA. Thanks!

You may use the following contact list of Executive Committee members to contact any of us. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at our annual party on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**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>
Ken Lyons	617-262-5300	<a href="mailto:lyonsassociates@verizon.net">lyonsassociates@verizon.net</a>	President
Gloria Gavis	617-480-3646	<a href="mailto:gavislaw@comcast.net">gavislaw@comcast.net</a>	Clerk
Elaine Pierce	617-277-1845	<a href="mailto:pierceelaine@yahoo.com">pierceelaine@yahoo.com</a>	Treasurer
Peggy Baseman	617-965-1220	<a href="mailto:pbaseman@hotmail.com">pbaseman@hotmail.com</a>	Social Activities
Marguerite D’Annolfo	617-232-6218	<a href="mailto:mrdannolfo@comcast.net">mrdannolfo@comcast.net</a>	Membership
Jean Fulkerson	617-916-1661	<a href="mailto:jean.fulkerson@gmail.com">jean.fulkerson@gmail.com</a>	Zoning/Development
John Grandin	617-566-4406	<a href="mailto:jgrandin3@gmail.com">jgrandin3@gmail.com</a>	Traffic/Parking
Zibby Pyle	617-734-3360	<a href="mailto:zibpyle@gmail.com">zibpyle@gmail.com</a>	Communications/Website
Jim Taylor	617-738-8746	<a href="mailto:jctslf@gmail.com">jctslf@gmail.com</a>	Traffic/Parking
Dick Tucker	617-232-2540	<a href="mailto:dicktucker@hotmail.com">dicktucker@hotmail.com</a>	Newsletter
Peter Vieira	617-670-4138	<a href="mailto:pvieira@payette.com">pvieira@payette.com</a>	Zoning
Verne Vance	617-232-5494	<a href="mailto:vvance@rcn.com">vvance@rcn.com</a>	Executive

**Website: [chanewton.org](http://chanewton.org)      Send email or address changes to [admin@chanewton.org](mailto:admin@chanewton.org)**

Find us on FACEBOOK: Chestnut Hill Association

**2015 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** \_\_\_

**2015 Dues PAYMENT: \$50** \_\_\_ **\$75** \_\_\_ **\$100** \_\_\_ **\$150** \_\_\_ **OTHER \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Your dues payment of \$50 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!*)

Please send your check for dues to attend our annual party by **April 25**. Dues are welcome anytime, but we need to have your payment before we confirm your invitation.

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