

**CHESTNUT HILL ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
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**Dear Chestnut Hill Neighbors:**

This is the Holiday Edition of the Chestnut Hill Association Newsletter. We want to bring everyone up to date on events and news around Chestnut Hill. We'll try to publish another issue in the early spring. In the next couple of months, however, please cheer for the Patriots, who are still having a great season despite a number of serious injuries and one loss.

It's not too late to send in a contribution to support ongoing efforts of the CHA. If you want to help us avoid a deficit for this year, a check in any amount mailed to the address above will be gratefully appreciated. Our 2016 membership appeal will begin in the spring.

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

**Get your shovels ready!**

Winter's just around the corner, and while it will be hard to beat last winter's record snowfall and snow removal expenses, some are forecasting another white season. Don't forget that all residents are required to clear sidewalks of snow and slush promptly after any storm. You can find details on Newton's website, [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov).

**Waban Hill Reservoir**

The City of Newton's purchase of the Waban Hill Reservoir (at the intersection of Manet Road and Comm Ave has been completed. A large gathering at the site on November 21 was entertained by Mayor Warren, Alderman Lisle Baker, and other supporters who worked hard and long to bring the project forward. Much remains to be done, but a new fence around the water plus major clearing of overgrowth have already made the property more attractive and safer. We'll keep you posted on further progress.

**“City Council” will replace “Board of Aldermen”**

The latest Newton elections produced one newly elected official. The name “City Council” is replacing the long-standing designation of “Board of Aldermen.” Get used to it, so the women elected don't have to put up with gender confusion any longer. Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to all those who made the effort to run for office.

**Charter Commission**

Newton voters approved the recommendation to establish a Charter Commission and elected nine members to begin the long-term process of reviewing and recommending changes to the City's current charter, which is apparently due for some revisions. The newly elected members of the Commission will be having meetings and hearings in the months ahead. Stay tuned for future updates.

## **Boston College/Congregation Miskan Tefila**

As you may know already, Congregation Mishkan Tefila, with 21 acres located on Hammond Pond Parkway, has agreed to be acquired by Boston College, who would use some of the property for administrative offices and parking in the short term. Plans indicate that the synagogue will remain in its present location until 2019. Not surprising, there is considerable concern that much of the property will not be protected against further construction/development. Our Ward 7 Aldermen, Fuller, Baker, and Laredo, among others, are focused on approximately 15+ acres of open space, surrounded by Newton and DRC conservation land. It is a quiet, wooded area with trails, rock outcroppings and a vernal pool.

Various options including purchase of the land by the City, a conservation restriction and/or public access easement are being discussed with the Mayor and the Conservation Commission. The Newton Committee on Community Preservation may receive an application for CPA funding for an initial appraisal to determine potential acquisition costs, as well as assistance with acquisition itself. Our Aldermen are working with the Mayor to determine the best way forward; continued support of the Chestnut Hill Association for this effort will be important.

## **New School Construction**

You are probably aware of the new Angier School in Waban which is scheduled for completion in the next several weeks. In addition, the Zervas School just off Beacon Street closer to Walnut Street will be enlarged and rebuilt to accommodate more pupils and ease the crowding that has been growing for several years. Also, Cabot School, which is located closer to Newton North High School, is in the design phase for a major restoration and expansion. Finally, the acquisition of Aquinas College's property will add needed space for elementary classrooms and land for recreation use.

## **Star Market/CVS Driveway and Hammond Street Road Work**

After years of congestion and unsafe conditions, the renovation of the entrance from Hammond Street into the CVS/Star Market parking lot is finally coming to fruition. Thanks to efforts by the neighbors, City officials from Newton and Brookline, and encouragement from CHA members, this trouble spot is becoming more welcoming, convenient, and safe. Watch for the opening in the coming days.

Unfortunately, the repairs to the longstanding and deteriorating potholes and bumps along Hammond Street toward Beacon Street will be postponed once more. The situation will likely become worse before it gets better. Do not hesitate to call or write to the Department of Public Works when you get discouraged. The good news is that several faded crosswalks along Hammond Street were just repainted.

## **Leaf Blower Restrictions?**

The Board of Aldermen has been considering limits the use of leaf blowers. The current proposal would allow them in the fall and spring, subject to noise and time limitations, but not allow them in the winter and summer, with possible improvements in technology required in three years later. The purpose is to protect the environment and health of residents from noise, fumes, dust and debris. The matter is before a committee of the Board (soon to be Council) to work on the proposal. You can email your views to Alderman Ruthanne Fuller and Alderman Lisle Baker at [rfuller@newtonma.gov](mailto:rfuller@newtonma.gov) and [lbaker@newtonma.gov](mailto:lbaker@newtonma.gov).

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

The “new” Atrium Mall is still empty although a sign out front points to an open-for-business date next year. Bulfinch Group, the owner of the Atrium, is ready to sign new tenants. The owners received a permit from Newton’s Board of Aldermen to allow approximately 50,000 square feet to be used for bio research laboratories, but a mix of tenants is preferred. Bulfinch would welcome your call.

## **See Any Coyotes? (Thanks to Marguerite D’Annolfo)**

If you see a coyote, take a moment to report it! The City of Newton website makes it very simple to report your sighting. Under the City Government heading, [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov), scroll down to the Police column and you’ll find a listing for Coyote Sighting. There is an easy to fill-out on-line form that takes your date of sighting, name, and address. You’ll also see an interesting map of Newton and the surrounding towns that identifies coyote sightings by location and by number. For example, in the past six months there were three reports on coyote sightings in Newton Centre.

What to look for: Eastern Coyotes, the most common in our area, are about the size of a large dog, but with longer, thicker fur. Grayish or light brownish in color, they usually have a black-tipped tail that is pointed downward. Coyotes are typically 4-5 feet in length, and bear a resemblance to a German-Shepard, which can lead to some confusion by easily being mistaken for the breed, especially at a distance. They often come out at dusk looking for prey or food, but can be present during any time of the day.

Coyotes are not shy guests and will enter your yard uninvited; while most look for prey such as rodents, squirrels, rabbits or road-kill, they also feast on berries, squash (pumpkins), and food remains, so be sure to bag and tie your trash before putting it into your barrel. Clean up any birdseed that has fallen out of the feeder so as not to attract coyotes. Keep your household pets safe from coyotes by either keeping them indoors or in a fenced yard while keeping watch. When you’re out walking your dog(s), be sure to use a leash, and never let your dog run without your supervision. For more information on living with coyotes, see [www.ma.gov](http://www.ma.gov). (Eastern-Coyote-in-Massachusetts)

## **Neighborhood Security**

Recent reports of housebreaks in Chestnut Hill remind us all that we are not exempt from possible robberies or other issues of home security. Although a new police chief is on the job, we should reinforce our own sense of responsibility with regard to safety in our homes and cars.

The simple rules are 1) lock your doors and windows even if you are home; 2) lock your cars if they are parked outside or in a garage; and 3) use you alarm if you have one, and 4) call 911 if you see or hear someone suspicious breaking into your home or causing damage elsewhere. The police would rather respond to a false alarm rather than miss the opportunity to stop a crime.

## **Upcoming meetings and events**

Dates for annual meeting and spring party will be announced later.

## **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 Marc Laredo. You can contact them through [newtonma.gov](http://newtonma.gov).

We welcome the names and addresses of new neighbors, so if you have some new names, please send an email to [dicktucker@hotmail.com](mailto:dicktucker@hotmail.com). We're glad to send information to newcomers and would like to welcome them with information about the CHA. For your information, the names and contact information of our Executive Committee members are printed below. Let us hear from you. We're always interested in having more help in communicating with our members and neighbors, and if you would like to volunteer, please contact anyone on the list.

**Thanks again. Enjoy the season!**

Sincerely,

Dick Tucker

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - CONTACT INFORMATION**  
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Please send contributions or mail to: Chestnut Hill Association, Box 67173, Chestnut Hill MA 02467

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