

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

October 2016

Dear Chestnut Hill Neighbors:

Summer is over and the weather is getting cold. We still need lots of rain, as Boston's precipitation is 30% below normal year to date. The Red Sox ended a great season with the collapse in the final week and were beaten in the first round of the league playoffs. The Patriots are off to a good start, however, and we can cheer for them now.

Membership Support Strong in 2016

Chestnut Hill Association members have generously supported our programs and activities this year, and we've tried to keep you involved in whatever is going on around town. We especially want to thank everyone who send in contributions this year and particularly wish to recognize anonymously the 35 members who gave \$100 or more to support the CHA. Thank you all!!

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th – Peaceful Contemplation Available to All

Please vote, using your own name and correct address. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Also keep in mind the new option of voting early. Details can be found on the website, www.newtonma.gov. If you don't vote, you may not be permitted to complain later. For anyone who needs a quiet break after being bombarded with mail and harassment by candidates and their drones, the Church of the Redeemer on Hammond Street will be open during voting hours with prayer services at 7 a.m., 12 noon, 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. All are welcome at any hour for a few minutes of quiet contemplation and peace.

Proposed Further Development at “The Street.”

A controversial proposal involves new construction of retail stores and restaurants, either as additions to existing buildings or separate new structures near Hammond Pond. A number of thoughtful concerns have been raised related to parking and traffic as well as potential environmental impacts on the Pond and scenic views across the water. We may schedule another meeting with the developers as plans are better defined so our member can share their ideas and questions. We'll post any notice on our website, chanewton.org.

Road Repairs on Hammond Street

You may have already seen the machines and men on the job to resurface the roadway and sidewalk between Stone Ave. and Ward Street past Beacon Street. The good news is that Public Works has allocated millions of dollars for further, more extensive work in many villages of Newton in the coming year.

Public Schools Construction Underway

The construction of the new Zervas School on Beacon Street at Beethoven is well underway as you can easily see from the street. This is the second major primary school project along Beacon Street. Farther away, the Cabot School is in the very early stages of getting ready to dig. The original core of the building will be totally renovated and two major additions will house the gym, library, and more classrooms. Other primary and middle schools are in various planning stages around the City. Your weekly TAB newspaper will have occasional future updates.

Ballot Questions on Election Day – Charter Schools and Other Issues

Question 2 deals with a proposal to increase the number of Public Charter Schools in future years. It's a complex issue for many, especially those who care greatly about opportunities for kids stranded in “failing” schools.

Other ballot topics include Expansion of Slot Machine Gambling, Legalization of Marijuana, and Humane Treatment of Farm Animals. All of the four questions are discussed with pro and con arguments in the pamphlet entitled “Information for Voters” prepared by the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and mailed to all voters. Make your own decisions and try to figure out what they’re all about. (No help here!)

Waban Hill Reservoir – Updated Plans

The Waban Hill Reservoir, located off Comm Ave at Ward Street and Manet Road, is undergoing a major but gradual renovation and improvement at the five acre site now owned by the City of Newton. The entire property has been cleaned up, thanks to removal of overgrown weeds, poison ivy, invasive shrubs and trees. A new fence surrounds the water, and walking paths are being upgraded. Further work is still to come, and three public meetings have been held by the Friends of Waban Hill and the staff of the Parks & Recreation Department to share plans and ideas for additional improvements. More information and presentations by consultants may be found at: http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/parks/city/waban_hill_reservoir.asp

Save Webster Woods

Boston College has completed the purchase of the entire site of Temple Mishkan Telifa on Hammond Pond Parkway, including the large wooded area that is part of Webster Woods. While BC has plans to use the existing building and open space for administrative purposes and parking, no promises have been made yet concerning the future of the woods. You have likely seen signs to “Save Webster Woods!” in and around Newton Center and Chestnut Hill, but plans are not yet clear. The City has hired an appraiser to get a professional opinion of the value of the undeveloped wooded area of about 12 acres.

Boston College Football Parking

The football season is well underway, and the home team (BC) has struggled, especially against ACC opponents. The usual street signs are posted around the neighborhood showing the schedule of home games and parking restrictions starting two hours before the game and ending two hours after the end of the game. The CHA participates in post-game meetings to review security and traffic issues with BC Police and athletics personnel. Thus far there have been no big problems. If you are confused, read the street signs carefully and don’t park on the marked streets during BC home games. It may be useful to alert visiting friends about the rules as well.

Chestnut Hill Real Estate Update

Recent data suggest that the real estate market continues to be strong in both Newton and Brookline for single-family homes and condominiums. Economics play a role in this business, of course, and prosperity coupled with historically low interest rates help keep the market from stalling. Improved employment conditions and relatively strong investment markets are contributing elements. Activity has been positive relative to the past few years, with rising prices, especially in the price range below \$1 million, while very expensive properties take longer to sell. Such markets would be vulnerable to correction in the event of a significant rise in mortgage rates, and even though there are expectations of such an increase, transactions continue to close in our area.

The Fed continues to stall on raising rates while home buyers continue to buy, even though some older folks among us rightfully complain that rates on savings accounts and money market funds are artificially restrained by the government. All this will change; just don’t ask us when.

If you are considering a sale or purchase of a property in the Chestnut Hill area, be sure to review market conditions and history with your realtor. Many knowledgeable experts are highly experienced in our community.

Newton's Off-Leash Dog Parks

We are fortunate that Newton has several off-leash parks where we can take our dogs for exercise and socializing with other dogs. All of the active parks are maintained and supervised by the Parks & Recreation Department. For those who live in Chestnut Hill, the convenient local parks include Old Cold Spring Park, close to Beacon Street, Cabot Park, near the Cabot School, and McGrath Park, next to Warren House on Washington Street in West Newton.

Details about obtaining a permit and membership tags (for the dogs) are available on the City of Newton website, www.newtonma.gov or at City Hall in the Clerk's office. It should be noted that Houghton Garden, managed by the Conservation Commission and the Friends of Houghton Garden, is *not* an authorized off-leash park.

Newcomers to Chestnut Hill?

We know that many families have moved into Chestnut Hill in recent years, and we have taken the liberty of including you in this mailing, in hopes that you would enjoy joining the Chestnut Hill Association. Please take the opportunity to review the membership form on the next page and send it in along with a check for your dues as members of the CHA.

You may also want to log into the CHA website, chanewton.org and see more information about the Association, our committees, and notes of current events. If you are curious about any aspect of the CHA, please feel free to contact anyone on the list of Executive Committee members.

We Can Always Use Your Help

As is no surprise, we always need volunteers to help keep the CHA viable in our neighborhood. Tell us what your interests are, and we'll try to involve you in some committee or function. We would like to identify a few to help organize meetings, social events, communications, and membership contact.

CHA 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	lyonsassociates@verizon.net	President
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
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

Website: chanewton.org

Send email or address changes to admin@chanewton.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – CHESTNUT HILL ASSOCIATION

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

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CHILDREN/AGES (optional) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Your contact information is never shared or sold, 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** ___

2016 Dues PAYMENT: \$50 ___ **\$75** ___ **\$100** ___ **\$150** ___ **OTHER \$** _____

Your donations are not tax deductible, sorry! We always welcome new members and anyone who would like help this all-volunteer organization. Just contact any member of the executive committee for more information you have names for us, or just send names to admin@chanewton.org.

Our Ward 7 members of the City Council may help if you have questions about City Government: Lisle Baker, Ruthanne Fuller, and Mark Laredo. You can contact them through newtonma.gov. Our website, chanewton.org, is important to provide faster and more efficient information compared to a newsletter or postcard mailing. Please include your email addresses! We keep that information confidential and don't sell our address lists!

As always, many thanks for your support. Call me with questions and/or suggestions.

Dick Tucker