

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

May 2018

Dear Neighbors,

Spring is finally here. Tulips are blooming, birds are nesting, and the Red Sox and Celtics are playing to win. The Bruins did well but lost in the second round of the playoffs. Stay tuned.

Annual Members Cocktail Party – Likely Date: Thursday June 7, 2018. 6-8 p.m.

We are already sending invitations to those who have already paid current dues. Our deadline will be Friday, June 1, in order to get the invitation to you prior to the event.

Breaking news from our Mayor, Ruthanne Fuller

Mayor Fuller shared some of her goals for Newton and gave a list of a “few” priorities here:

- Ensuring academic excellence and educational equity
- Keeping Newton safe
- Making Newton more all-age friendly with a focus on seniors
- Improving streets, sidewalks, mobility, public buildings, and infrastructure
- Preserving neighborhoods, increasing affordable housing, diversifying housing options
- Promoting vibrant, walkable and financially robust village centers and commercial corridors
- Addressing climate change and sustaining our environment
- Protecting our woods and open spaces while caring for parks and recreation land
- Fostering art, culture and community life
- Facilitating a healthy, accessible, and supportive Newton
- Providing excellent and responsive City services
- Assuring the City’s financial health and spending wisely.

That should be enough to keep her busy during June. What will she do in July?

Webster Woods and the Boston College Property on Hammond Pond Parkway

Mayor Fuller continues to move forward with efforts to conserve and protect Webster Woods land and forest. A recent development has been the formation of the Webster Woods Advisory Committee, whose mission will be to consider the best strategies for preserving the portion of the woods that is presently owned by Boston College.

In addition a group, Friends of Webster Woods, has been formed to support the acquisition of the woods by the City of Newton. Find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fowwnewtion/>. Discussions with the City's Community Preservation Committee are tentatively set for June 21st to begin the funding process. Chair Beth Wilkinson and Panel member Professor Richard Primark appeared on a TV program sponsored by the Newton League of Women Voters. Visit <https://bit.ly/2FouzZ4>.

In Other News

Heartbreak Hill Park at Waban Hill Reservoir

This park and Waban Hill Reservoir have a combined new name in fact, so that there should be no confusion as to the place and or its location. It has been "hidden in plain sight" for many years. Plans underway for the Reservoir and Park (by Ward Street and Manet Road) will lead to further improvements for the five-acre site. The entire area has been cleaned up, with lots of help from the Friends of Waban Hill and the Newton Parks & Recreation Department, the guardian of this special addition to Newton's open spaces.

Needham Street

The current mammoth construction projects along Needham Street have prompted questions such as whether or not we really need this. It's not clear who is going to fill or use or shop in these new retail spaces. The rest of the country seems to be cutting back on shopping malls, bricks and mortar retail stores while the surge in on-line internet shopping surge seems to have no end in sight. It's nevertheless good to see the street itself and parking being improved

Off-leash Dog Parks are Open and Happy in Newton

Early discussions are underway for one or two more off-leash dog parks to add more space for dogs and their owners, offering safe and healthy exercise opportunities and convenient locations. Bring your dog out to play! You will have fun too. Be sure to pick up your off-leash park tag at City Hall. Locations and more details are available on newtonma.gov.

Newton Public Schools Projects

Final construction of the "new" Cabot School is underway after multiple revisions and extensive redesign. Other project around the City are still in the future. Infrastructure crumbles steadily.

We hope to find out more about the long-term planning process. Dreams can be costly.

Local Real Estate Update

We all get local real estate listings almost daily, and the TAB seems to have updated sales info almost every week. A couple of realtors have provided information on the trend of prices in area cities and towns, with particular focus on Newton, Brookline, and Wellesley. Data for both single-family and condos suggest that sales are steady over the past couple of years, with single-family houses averaging over \$1 million in each town, and condo prices about \$500,000 less.

Volume has been higher in Newton than Wellesley, but numbers of actual transactions have been fairly steady over the trailing five years, e.g., 550-600 houses and 300-400 condo sales in Newton. Wellesley showed fewer sales but higher prices on average. Interest rates have finally popped a bit higher after many years of unrealistic rates depressed by the Fed. Refinancing will be more expensive, thus reducing sales volume perhaps in the coming months.

Please sign up or renew your membership in the CHA. We still need your support!

Please consider an increase in your financial support. Complete the enclosed form and mail it with your contribution of \$50 or more. Every donation helps maintain our programs and contact with you. Gifts of \$75 or \$100 or more are always very welcome! See the form on the last page of this letter.

Membership growth and involvement is our Goal

We would like to be responsive to our members and hold useful and informative meetings on topics and issues of importance. We are hoping to get more plans and discussion from Boston College with regard to their huge building program now underway. We look for a meeting with them soon to clarify what's going on around us. We are in the dark much of the time. (Witness Beacon Street.)

Any of the topics on Mayor Fuller's list could be the seed of healthy analysis and exchange of information. Please send your own ideas along to Ken Lyons with suggested meeting topics.

As our senior citizens move south or migrate to other parts of Greater Boston, we need to identify new neighbors who might enjoy being part of the CHA. This issue of the newsletter is being sent to a number of nearby neighbors who have not been on our mailing list. If you are one of those, please accept our thanks for reading this far!

We hope to see you soon.

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
Marguerite D'Annolfo	617-232-6218	mrdannolfo@comcast.net	Membership
John Grandin	617-566-4406	jgrandin3@gmail.com	Traffic/Parking
Dick Tucker	617-232-2540	dicktucker@hotmail.com	Newsletter

Please complete the form below when sending dues and membership information to the CHA

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – CHESTNUT HILL ASSOCIATION

Mail with check to: Chestnut Hill Association, Box 67173, Chestnut Hill MA 02467

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

2018 Dues PAYMENT: \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$150 ___ More \$ ___

Please send notices or newsletters via Email _____ or US Mail _____ (check one)

Your donations are not tax deductible, sorry! We always welcome new members and new volunteers. Please contact any member of the executive committee (above) for more information. If you want to suggest friends or neighbors to serve or join the CHA, please send names to admin@chanewton.org or to CHA address above. **Thank you!**

Dick Tucker

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