

# HNA REPORTER

## HELDERBERG NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ACADEMY STATION, P.O. BOX 8841, ALBANY, NY 12208

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**NEXT HNA MEETING:**

**Wednesday, July 21, 2004**

**7:00-9:00 pm**

**Sage College, Campus Center, Room 224**

**Special Planning Meeting:**

**Let's Organize Some Neighborhood Events!**

**Refreshments available during the meeting**



**Albany National Night Out  
Against Crime**

Tuesday August 3, 2004

The **21<sup>st</sup> Annual National Night Out (NNO)**, a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), has been scheduled for **August 3, 2004**. We cordially invite you and your community to be a part of our NIGHT OUT 2004 team.

Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from 9,850 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, 33 million people participated in NNO 2003.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods 'celebrate' NNO with a variety of events and activities including: block parties, cookouts, visits from local police, parades, flashlight walks, contests, and youth programs. NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation. Plus, the benefits your community will derive from NNO will most certainly extend well beyond one night.

Continued on page 2

**DEAR NEIGHBORS:**

Well, we've officially passed the mid-point of summer and though it may not feel like it, the days are really getting shorter. I hope you are making the most of the nice weather - gardening, golf, swimming, or whatever else strikes your fancy.

The primary focus of our July 21 meeting will be to finalize plans for our neighborhood's National Night Out celebration in August and the Annual Neighborhood Picnic in September. We'll also be organizing neighborhood plantings so those of you with a love of all things green please make a point of attending. Actually we'd like to see all our members and our committees present at this meeting, with or without their green thumbs.

On a personal note, I'd like to express my thanks to those of you who attended the school budget forum sponsored jointly with the Pine Hills and Delaware Avenue Neighborhood Associations. I'd also like to thank the School Board members from our neighborhood: Pat Fahy, Sue Kushner, Barbara Gaffuri, and Board President Scott Wexler. They took time from their busy schedules to listen to the questions and concerns of those present. A special thanks also goes to Deputy Superintendent Roger George for his Budget presentation. Finally, to all those who showed up to vote for (or against) the budget, Thank You! Our elected officials take the concerns of our association more seriously when they see those concerns translated into votes.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

*Craig Waltz, Chair*

**REMINDER:** HNA's annual picnic will be held on Wednesday, September 8. This is one week earlier than our regular meeting date, so mark it on your calendar now!

A note to our newsletter deliverers: The newsletter will be ready the last weekend in August. That will give you 11 days to make your deliveries. If you know you will not be around between August 28 and Sept. 7, please call Debbie Schramek at 482-2775 so we have time to find a substitute for your route.

*The Helderberg Neighborhood Association meets on the third Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings are held from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Junior College of Albany, Campus Center. The remaining 2004 meeting dates are 9/8\* (annual picnic), and 11/17. (\*Note change in date in September.)*

*HNA Reporter is published every other month. Deadlines for articles or ads are 1/1; 2/23; 5/1; 7/1; 8/21; and 11/1. Ads and articles may be mailed to HNA, Academy Station, P.O. Box 8841, Albany, NY 12208. HNA Editors reserve the right to accept, reject or edit articles for content and space considerations.*

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Please thank our advertisers and our business partners!

Due to rising costs, an ad now costs \$17.00 per issue.  
 Still a great deal!  
 If you would like an ad in a future issue of HNA Reporter, call 482-2775.

**National Night Out, continued**

If your block is interested in holding an event on August 3, contact the Albany Police Department, Community Services Unit, at 447-8763 to register.

Sgt. Fred Aliberti

**Attention, HNA residents:** Want to gather with your neighbors at a summer block party? Come to the next HNA meeting (Wednesday, July 21) to discuss having one big neighborhood celebration, or maybe several smaller block parties. Learn how to organize your own block party. For years, Grove Avenue has held its own festive summer party on National Night Out (always the first Tuesday in August). Learn how the Grove gang does it and how to initiate your own.

**JUNE PLANT SWAP A SUCCESS**

Thanks to all the gardeners for making the June plant swap such a success! We had a great time exchanging stories and tips, not to mention a fine selection of plants, among them yarrows, bee balm, lilies, myosotis, hosta (and more lilies). Perhaps we'll try another swap in the autumn but we'll certainly do it again next spring, probably in early May.

Kathy Ray

**SECOND BEAR SIGHTING PROMPTS WARNING**

First there was the bear on Picotte Drive. Since then, a second bear has been seen wandering through Bethlehem. The bears were spotted rummaging through backyards, probably looking for food. Please be advised not to leave garbage or any type of food for animals outside, since this might attract bears. If you see a bear, keep a safe distance and call the police department immediately.

Officer Kathleen Rissberger

**A Note From Jim Sano:** Last month's newsletter indicated the city had temporarily halted its tree program. I am still doing my free tree program, where I pay the homeowner's portion of the new tree. There's a maximum of 5 trees for the neighborhood.

**Farewell, Evelyn, and Thank You!**

Evelyn Sturdevan has been a strong supporter of HNA, as well as an honored citizen of Albany for many years. She has been on the boards of many organizations in the area, including Albany Medical Center. She's been called "The Flower Lady" because of her extensive knowledge of plants. Now over 90, Evelyn is leaving Harris Avenue to move to Saratoga. HNA members will miss her.

Save the date:  
**Wednesday  
 Sept. 8  
 HNA  
 Annual  
 Picnic**

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**Deja View Video Opens Branch on New Scotland Avenue**

Open since June at 279 New Scotland Avenue, Deja View Video is not your typical video rental store. In fact, you won't find any videos there, only DVDs. What really makes Deja View Video unique, however, is its rental policy. This is one video store that never charges late fees. Instead, Deja View Video's DVD pass allows you to keep the videos you rent as long as you wish for a flat monthly fee. For \$24.95 a month you can take out two videos at a time, while \$34.95 lets you have four out at one time. There is no limit on either how long you keep them or how many you rent per month.

The store currently carries over 800 titles and is adding more all the time. You'll find a solid selection of recent releases and movies for kids plus one of the area's widest selections of foreign, independent, and gay and lesbian films. Over the years *Metroland* and *TU* readers have recognized the Central Avenue Deja View Store for its eclectic inventory. And if you don't see what you're looking for, just ask; owner Steve Johnson welcomes customer requests.

Deja View Video, 279 New Scotland Ave, 489-PASS; www.dvdpass.info.

Susan VanDeventer

**Sheehy Opticians Remodels**

Sheehy Opticians at 291 New Scotland Avenue has been in the neighborhood for a long time. John Sheehy founded the business on Lark Street in 1953. They moved to their present location in 1968.

The two Opticians, Matthew Sheehy and Mark Werner, offer eye exams, glasses and contacts. They provide personalized attention and high quality products. Sheehy Opticians fabricate glasses from start to finish and in many cases they can make you a new pair of glasses while you wait.

They have just finished updating the store—remodeling from floor to ceiling—and just purchased new furniture and displays. Stop in to see them or call them at 482-4688. You can take advantage of their discount coupon in the NYNEX yellow pages.

Cyra Nealon

**SUMMER FARM TOURS**

Farmers from the Regional Farm and Food Project (RFFP) are hosting tours to share their farming techniques and philosophies of sustainable agriculture with other farmers and members of the public. Upcoming sessions include:

- July 25, 2:00-4:00 pm in Malta “Growing Cut Flowers for a Retail Market.”
- August 22, 2:00-4:00 pm in Amsterdam: “Growing a Family Farm.”
- September 5, 2:00-4:00 pm in Harlemville, Columbia County: “Understanding Farm Ecology Hands-On.”

The tours are free, but reservations are strongly recommended. To find out more, or to make a reservation, contact RFFP at 271-0744; or farmfood@capital.net (subject: Farm Tours.)

**Hazardous Waste Disposal Dates**

Household hazardous waste materials may be taken to the Rapp Road Landfill between 4pm-7pm on Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2. Advance registration is required. Call 494-2273 to register.

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## When to File for a Building Permit



Summer is the season of “sprucing up” our homes. However, do you know if your project requires a building permit? Many Albany buildings constructed between 1900 and World War II architectural detailing, design features and craftsmanship rarely employed in more modern construction. The Helderberg Neighborhood is included in a *Traditional Neighborhood Overlay District* as defined by the City Zoning Code. An overlay district is intended to protect the high degree of original design integrity, the special character and the strong cohesiveness of all neighborhoods not formally designated as historic districts. Whether you live in a historic district or an overlay district, a building permit is necessary for most exterior repairs, alterations, and new construction including projects such as roofing, siding, window replacement, and fencing. While a permit is necessary for exterior painting, there is no fee for this permit.

Work is likely to comply with the Zoning Code and be granted a permit if new construction is compatible with the general character of the existing building and those surrounding it. Typical exterior alterations involve work on porches, fences, stairs, windows & doors, roofing, siding and trim. In brief, the code states that all porches are to be re-

tained in their original style with appropriate supports, balusters, and railings. Any new wood must be painted within 6 months. Original windows and door arrangements should be retained or replacement windows must match to the greatest extent possible in size, style and muntin configuration. Original architectural trimwork and detailing must be preserved. Any new siding must be appropriate to the architectural style and installed in a manner that preserves all original trimwork and design features.

If you are working with a contractor, please make sure he or she has obtained a building permit to ensure that you are not in violation and to avoid the issuance of a stop work order with an associated fee of \$250. A building permit generally costs \$50 for alterations costing under \$5,000 or \$150.00 for new construction under 2,000 square feet. Building permit applications and other informational brochures can be found at [www.APDonline.org](http://www.APDonline.org). The Division of Building & Codes offices are open Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM and are located on the first floor of the Public Safety Headquarters at 165 Henry Johnson Blvd.

Kimberly Konrad Alvarez

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HNA thanks David Phaff of RealtyUSA for his assistance in financing the cost of the HNA Reporter.

Merchants in the 200 block of New Scotland Avenue want to thank City Gardner Judy Stacy for providing the beautiful and colorful flowers to plant in front of their businesses.



### FREE Wood Window Repair Workshop

Wondering what to do with your old windows? Do you have a broken pane of glass, a broken sash cord or are they drafty? There is no need to replace them when you can easily repair them!

On **Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 1pm – 3pm**, Kimberly Konrad Alvarez, Preservation Consultant, will offer a **FREE** workshop to the residents of the Helderberg Neighborhood on the basics of repairing and restoring wood windows. The workshop will touch on how to remove a window sash and repair broken cords, replace broken glass or glazing putty, how best to strip paint, what tools to use and how to add weatherstripping. All are welcome. Location: Driveway of 83 Grove Avenue. In the event of rain, workshop will be held on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please call 458-8942.

Landmark Consulting  
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[kkalvarez@landmarkconsulting.net](mailto:kkalvarez@landmarkconsulting.net)

What??? You haven't renewed your membership yet? What are you waiting for???

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Household: \$ 5.00  
Business: \$10.00  
Associate: \$10.00

Each household membership has one vote. Business members will receive one free ad in the HNA Reporter, and will have voting rights. Associate Members (not living within our boundaries) will have the HNA Reporter mailed to them.

Please enroll me as a member of the Helderberg Neighborhood Association. Enclosed is a check, made out to HNA, in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ membership. (Checks may be mailed to: HNA, Academy Station, P.O. Box 8841, Albany, NY 12208 OR brought to the next HNA meeting.) Date mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

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