

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

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**NEXT HNA MEETING:
Wednesday, March 16, 2005
7:00—9:00 pm**

Sage Colleges, Campus Center

Guest: Lori Harris

Albany Dept. of Development and Planning

Topic: Albany's Midtown and

Park South Plan

Refreshments available following meeting

DEAR NEIGHBORS:

You probably can't tell with all the snow and wind we've experienced lately, but Spring is just around the corner. Don't ask me which corner exactly, but I'm fairly certain it's one in our neighborhood.

To help kick-off the Spring season, HNA will sponsor our first annual "Spring Spree Along New Scotland Avenue" on Saturday April 30, 2005. This event is intended to showcase the fine array of neighborhood businesses along the New Scotland Avenue corridor. It will give us all a chance to get to know the business men and women who have invested in our neighborhood and the goods and services they provide, while enjoying an afternoon of fun and games. Mark your calendars now because this is an event you definitely do not want to miss.

Also on April 30, we will hold our 2nd Annual Neighborhood Plant Swap for those looking to add new and interesting elements to their gardens. This event was very well received last year and we are pleased to see it continue as one more way to bring neighbors with common interests together.

Sadly, I must report the passing of a dedicated city servant and a great friend to the neighborhood. Captain Thomas Rankin of Engine 11 on New Scotland Avenue passed away recently after a long battle with cancer. Anyone who had the privilege of meeting Captain Rankin can attest to his dedication to his chosen profession and our community. On behalf of the entire Association I wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to both his immediate family and his extended family—the crew of Engine 11. Throughout all the years we have held our Annual Picnic in the field next to the Firehouse, the crew stationed there has been very supportive and helpful in our efforts. It is only fitting that at this difficult time we make it known that we stand with them.

Support Your Local Businesses at the . . .

Spring Spree:

Treasure Hunt on New Scotland Avenue

Saturday, April 30, 10:00 am -2:00 pm

HNA will sponsor a Treasure Hunt along New Scotland Avenue to show the neighborhood's support for local businesses. The event will include entertainment for children, including clowns, police horses and free balloons, as well as promotions by local businesses. Those who complete the treasure hunt (don't worry; it's easy) will enter a raffle for numerous gift packages, including free dinners, movie rentals, sundaes, flower bouquets, evening cocktails and much more. **For more information, call Dennis Gaffney at 482-9813, or email hna @hnaalbany.org** or just stop by the table at the fire station on New Scotland Avenue the day of the event. Please come to show our local businesses just how important they are to us!

Second Annual Neighborhood Perennial Plant Swap

On April 30, the same day as our Spring Spree, HNA will host a plant swap from 10:00-11:00 am at 51 Lawnridge Avenue (Helderberg entrance), rain or shine. Bring a few perennials you'd like to trade, but **AVOID INVASIVES**. These plants crowd out other plants, spreading by very aggressive root systems, and are extremely difficult to eradicate. However, some folks like them. If you do bring this type of plant, clearly mark what you are donating, so the next gardener anticipates the plant's requirements and growth habit.

Bring an extra plant or two to donate to School 19 if you'd like. Call 482-9813 for more information.

New HNA Board Elected at January meeting

The following members were elected or re-elected to HNA's Board of Directors for 2005:

Chair: Craig Waltz

Vice Chair: Jennifer Viggiani

Secretary: Kim Alvarez (new)

Treasurer: June Price

Membership: Susan VanDeventer (new)

Communications: Debra Schramek

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 2005 meeting dates are 5/18, 7/20, 9/21 and 11/16.

HNA Reporter is published every other month. Deadlines

**New Scotland Firefighters Mourn
Loss of Captain**

Captain Thomas Rankin, 50, of Engine 11 Fire Station on New Scotland Avenue died on February 20, 2005. He had served the city Fire Department for 30 years. Fellow firefighters remember Rankin for his outstanding service, his work as the department's unofficial historian, and his contribution to his church and community.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Blessed Sacrament Church, 607 Central Avenue, Albany NY 12206, or to the American Cancer Society, 260 Osbourne Road, Loudonville, NY 12211.

Summer Youth Employment

The 2005 Summer Youth Employment Program will run from July 11 to August 19, 2005. This program is for teens between the ages of 14-18. Teens will be employed up to 20 hours a week, Monday-Friday. Hours of work may vary from job to job.

Returning summer employees may sign up at Bleecker Stadium on Saturday, April 2, and Saturday, April 9 between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. All new summer youth employees may sign up between April 11th and April 15, 4:00 - 7:00 pm and Saturday, April 16th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Work assignments will not be made at this time. Assignment letters will be mailed to enrolled youth during the month of June.

The Summer Youth Employment application is available on the City's website, www.albanyny.org. Along with the application, you will find several Internet links to various websites that will allow you to download the required financial forms that need to be included with your application.

From Albania to Albany

Eat your heart out New York City (and Pine Hills, Arbor Hill and every other neighborhood in Albany).

We've got Pasquale's.

Vitore (known as Victoria) Gelaj, the new owner of the Italian restaurant on the corner of Grove and New Scotland, celebrates her one-year anniversary at the location this month. It's been enough time to convince many Helderberg Neighborhood residents that she makes the best gourmet pizza in the city. "We make everything from scratch," Victoria says. "We use plum tomatoes for the sauce, fresh basil, not dried, we roast our peppers, and I make the meatballs with my own hands. I like to say that we make the best pizza money can buy." The pizza is New York-style, or thin-crust. The bruschetta Victoria serves is so good that some assume that she comes from Italy (she comes from Albania, which makes her a true Albanian).

Victoria recently remodeled the restaurant and by the time you read this it should have mahogany tables and chairs as well as a wine and beer license, creating a nice ambiance for Italian mainstays such as spaghetti, penne, lasagna, calzones and fresh salads. "We're not fancy," Victoria says. "But we've tried to make it comfortable. We want people in the neighborhood to feel right at home here."

Hours: Mon.-Thurs, 11 am-10 pm; Friday, 11 am-11 pm; Sat. & Sun, 12-9 pm. Prices: Gourmet pizza: from \$13-\$17 a pie; Lasagna or Penne with meatballs: \$9.95; chicken parmigiana: \$13.95; Mixed green salads: \$3.75-\$8.95. Phone: 459-5077.

HNA would like to thank the following business members for their support of the *HNA Reporter*: Frank Smith Signs, Joseph M. Turley Hearing Aids, New Scotland Chiropractic, Pasquale's Restaurant and The Cuttery.

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City Seeks Developer to Revitalize Park South Neighborhood

The Albany Local Development Corporation has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to find developers willing and able to invest in the Park South Redevelopment Plan. The Park South Area Plan is intended to guide development in the area between Washington Park and Albany Medical Center (the area bounded by Delaware, Madison, Robin, and Myrtle). According to the RFP, the city expects the developer to start with the lower New Scotland section of Park South: "The goal of the plan is to utilize key development projects along, or adjacent to, New Scotland Avenue as a means to leverage other investments throughout the entire neighborhood area." The plan for Park South calls for mixed-use development, including retail space, office space, and residential development. The residential housing would include a mix of owner-occupied housing, rental units, and student housing. The RFPs are due on March 18.

More information, including the Park South Redevelopment Plan and the full text of the RFP, is available on the city's web site: <http://www.albanyny.org/>. If the city succeeds in finding a suitable developer, we will let you know in a subsequent newsletter.

Proposed Development on Holland Avenue

A request for a zoning change is before the Albany Common Council, to allow the construction of a Walgreen's drugstore, a bank, and a fast-food restaurant on the vacant property just north of the McDonald's on Holland Avenue. A public hearing on the proposed change has been scheduled for Monday, March 21 at 7:00 pm in the Albany Common Council Chambers.

If you would like to offer comments or concerns, but are unable to attend the meeting, you may send them via e-mail to Shawn Morris, Common Council Member representing the 7th ward, at: shawnmorris7@aol.com.

Free Trees

Once again, Common Council Member Jim Sano is offering his free tree program. Anyone regardless of income, can have a tree planted in the right of way at no cost to the homeowner. This program has planted 25 trees in the last four years and has been a huge success. If you would like a tree, please contact Jim Sano at 438-8631, or by e-mail: jsano15@aol.com. All trees will be planted in the fall.

Spirituality Workshop offered

St Vincent De Paul Parish will hold a workshop, Health of Mind, Body and Spirit, on Saturday, April 16, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, at the Parish Education Center, 984 Madison Avenue. Topics include: Healing Touch and Holistic Health; Depression; Humor and Spirituality; Transitions in Life and Spirituality; Smoking Cessation; Spirituality and Substance Abuse; Advanced Directives and End of Life Decisionmaking; and Alzheimer's: How

to Cope. In addition, Audio-ology Screening will be available. Contact the Parish Center at 489-5408 for more information.

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Thurs. & Fri. 10 am to 8 pm
Sat. 10 am to 6 pm ~ CLOSED SUNDAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last Chance to See Abstract Expressionism Exhibit

The **Opalka Gallery's** current show, *New York School: Another View* will end on Sunday, March 20. The exhibit includes nearly 40 works of abstract expressionism from the 1950's and 60's.

From April 1 to 15, the gallery will host an exhibit of works by high school students from our region. From April 19 to 29 and from May 3 to 13 work by college fine arts students will be on display.

The Opalka Gallery, part of Sage College of Albany, is located at 140 New Scotland Ave. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday evenings from 6 pm to 8 pm, and Sunday from noon to 4 pm.

Annual Take Back the Night March

Each year, the **Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center** holds a rally and march against sexual violence. This year's event will be held on Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 pm at the Washington Park Lakehouse. The event will kick off with a poetry reading, followed by the stories of survivors of sexual assault. The march will begin at approximately 8 pm and will follow a two mile route, ending back at the Lakehouse. For information or to volunteer for this event, call 447-7100.

REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 30:
 * Plant Swap, 10:00-11:00 am
 * Spring Spree on New Scotland, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.
SEE YOU THERE!

For Pete Sake Thrift Shop

St. Peter's Hospital Thrift Shop, For Pete Sake, is now open Mondays 12:30—4:40 pm; Tuesdays 10:00 am—3:00 pm, Wednesday through Friday, 10:30 am—3:00 pm, and the first Saturday of each month, 11:30—3:30 pm. The shop offers a variety of quality clothes in all sizes for bargain prices Limited household items are also available.

Pantry Needs Non-Perishable Food

St. Teresa of Avila Food Pantry is in need of the following items: canned tuna, small jars of jelly, canned stew beef, canned meat (corned beef or chicken), spaghetti sauce (in plastic containers), canned coffee, canned fruit, cereal and toothpaste. Items may be dropped off at the Rectory or in the rear of the church.

An ad in the HNA Reporter only costs \$17.00 an issue. Business members receive a free ad with membership. Call 482-2775 for details.

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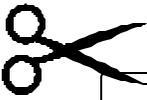
HNA thanks David Phaff of RealtyUSA for his assistance in financing the cost of the HNA Reporter.

Landmark Consulting
 Restoration Planning and Architectural Services

Landmark Consulting is a husband and wife team which specializes in restoration & architectural services for historic buildings. (This means homes built in the first half of the 20th century, too!) Jack Alvarez is a NYS registered architect, and Kimberly Konrad Alvarez is a historic preservation planner. Together they help owners of old homes research their properties, develop a restoration plan for their home, design renovations or additions, determine appropriate paint schemes, & assist in finding qualified contractors that have the skills for working on old homes.

Landmark Consulting is happy to offer 25% off typical consulting fees for Helderberg Neighborhood residents.

Landmark Consulting @ 83 Grove Avenue, Albany NY 12208 @ 518.458.8942
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HNA's membership year is January to December. Now's the time to renew your membership for 2005!

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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E-mail: _____