

# HNA REPORTER

## HELDERBERG NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

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**Next HNA Membership Meeting:  
WEDNESDAY, March 21, 2007**

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

**Sage Colleges, Campus Center, Room 224**

**Guest speakers:**

**Joshua Poppel, Director,**

**NY Bicycling Coalition**

**Katalin Mandelker, Program Director**

**Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement  
Community (NNORC)**

**Voters Approve Library Bond**

Congratulations to our neighborhood—and to Albany! The \$29.1 million bond on February 6 to rebuild our city’s library system passed by a 21 margin (3,277 to 1,683), winning in every neighborhood of the city. The ninth ward—which includes most HNA residents and those who live on streets on the other side of New Scotland too—passed by a margin of 3 to 1 (608 to 196).

The vote means we’ll get a new library branch in our neighborhood to replace the School 19 branch that is closing in June. The plan is to build in the open lot next to the New Scotland firehouse and on the house lot next door (the house will be demolished), preserving about half of the firehouse lot as open space.

Ground breaking for our branch is planned for late spring, 2008 with an anticipated completion date of July 2009. But the branch design is still preliminary, and the library will be seeking input from the neighborhood as plans move forward. The gap in service will be bridged in part by the library’s bookmobile.

The bond also means the city can renovate or build 4 other branches, including a new branch in the Arbor Hill/West Hill neighborhood; a new branch at the former Chicorelli’s Funeral Home on Delaware Avenue; a second floor addition to the Pine Hills branch; and an extensive renovation of the Howe branch in the South End.

“This decisive ‘yes’ vote means that Albany’s citizens understand the critical role that libraries play in promoting learning and making our neighborhoods vital and attractive places to live,” said Library Director Jeff Cannell. “Our sincere thanks goes to the hundreds of residents who participated in the planning process that resulted in the proposal that was approved by such a wide margin.”

Also, a special thanks goes to Albany Common Council member Cathy Fahey who worked tirelessly to mobilize library supporters for the vote!

*Dennis Gaffney*

**DEAR NEIGHBORS:**

March seems determined to come in like a lion. All we can do is hope the old adage holds true - it goes out like a lamb. With that in mind, the planning is well under way for Spring Spree '07, the annual neighborhood plant swap, and a return to all the joys of nice weather – Little League, Tulipfest, etc. Spring is also a season of new beginnings and, thanks to all of you who voted and secured the passage of the Library bond, we will soon see the beginning of construction on the new branch library in our neighborhood.

The one thing we need to make all our neighborhood events a success.....is you! Volunteers are the life-blood of everything we do. Our Spring Spree Chairperson Dennis Gaffney needs a few extra hands prior to the event to coordinate the involvement of neighborhood businesses. On the day of the event, May 5 (rain date May 19) help is needed with decorating, table set-up, and the scavenger hunt. A couple of hours of your time can really make a tremendous difference.

Our upcoming meeting on March 21 will feature two guest speakers. Joshua Poppel, Executive Director of the New York Bicycling Coalition, will discuss ideas for improving and enhancing bicycling and pedestrian quality of life in Albany. He will be available to answer questions on bike safety, the idea of “complete streets” and related topics.

Katalin Mandelker, Program Director for the Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NNORC) program will drop by to update us on their activities for the past year and plans for 2007. See you at the meeting!

*Craig Waltz, Chair*

**HNA Board Elected in January**

During the January HNA meeting, members voted to retain the current Board of Directors for 2007. Congratulations to the following board members: Chair, Craig Waltz; Vice Chair, Jennifer Viggiani; Treasurer, June Price; Secretary, Kim Alvarez; Communications, Debra Schramek; and Membership, Susan VanDeventer.

*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. Remaining 2007 meeting dates: 5/16, 7/18, 9/19 (Picnic), 11/21.*

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## 2007 Spring Spree Planned

The Helderberg and Woodlawn Neighborhood Associations are holding their 3rd annual "Spring Spree" on Saturday, May 5 from 11 to 2 p.m. (rain date, Sat., May 19). The event celebrates our valued New Scotland Avenue businesses! Put it on your calendar!

The event will once again have a Trivia Hunt, in which participants visit business owners, enjoy promotions, and enter a trivia treasure hunt to win prize packages from local businesses. Among the other fun activities planned are: face painting, kids chalk art contest, the Big Purple Bookmobile, police horses, a family dance, and neighborhood musicians. To participate, visit info tables in front of New Scotland Florist or Isn't It Sweet. For more information, or to volunteer to help, call 482-9813 or email [dgaffney@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dgaffney@nycap.rr.com)

## Fourth Annual Plant Swap Planned for April 28

HNA neighbors are invited to exchange perennial plants on Saturday, April 28 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at 51 Lawnridge Ave (use the Helderberg entrance). If there's too much snow, an alternate date will be arranged (call 482-9813 for update).

If you want plants but have none to trade, we will accept a \$1 donation per plant which will go to the neighborhood association.



Bring your plant in a plastic grocery bag, plastic container, or cardboard box. Include soil around the base to conserve some of the root system. Keep it shaded and water regularly after digging. Attach a brief description of flower color, height of plant, sun/soil/water requirement, and how it spreads (broadening clump, self-seed).

Examples of plants to divide might include lilies, iris, black-eyed susans, echinacea or coneflower, lamb's ear, bee balm, geraniums, coreopsis, crysanthemums, rose campion, hosta, and groundcovers like lamium, pachysandra, sweet woodruff and sedum (stonecrops).

Whatever you offer, please **AVOID INVASIVES**. Sorry to use the alarming capital letters, but these plants are extremely difficult to eradicate. Horticultural bullies, they crowd out other plants, spreading by very aggressive root systems. Among these are japanese honeysuckle, bittersweet and some groundcovers like

bishop's weed or goat's rue. When in doubt, do not exchange plants growing in the same bed as such plants.

Contact 482-9813 for more information. See you then!

Kathy Ray

SAVE THESE DATES!

April 28: Plant Swap  
May 5: Spring Spree  
(Rain date 5/19)  
June 2: HNA-wide garage sale




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**Donate Box Tops for School 19**



You can help raise funds for educational programs for School 19 by donating designated Box Tops from General Mills items. Place your box top donations in the collection box in the New Scotland Library Branch, To find out more about the program, go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com), or call Beth Joslin 438-5909.

**Subway Sandwich Shop**

The Subway Sandwich Shop on New Scotland Avenue has just moved to the Mobil Gas Station, at 247 New Scotland Avenue. They remodeled the former auto repair area and created a much larger shop with more tables for eating in.

You can enter the shop from either the Mobil station or the front door, with parking right outside the door.

Call in an order at 482-7498 and it will be ready for pick up. They are open from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week. Stop by and see the newly remodeled Subway Shop in the Helderberg Neighborhood.

*Cyra Nealon*

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**Frank Smith Signs**

You may never have met him, but you have certainly seen his handiwork all over Albany and the Capital Region. Since 1980, sign maker Frank Smith has been crafting original signs for area businesses. His work includes carved signs in wood or stone, magnetic signs, sidewalk signs, signs on vans or trucks, window signs, banners, menus, calligraphy, and even painted graphics on basketball floors. A self-described starving artist before he went into the sign business, Frank enjoys using his creativity and graphic arts savvy to design logos and signs that help area businesses communicate with their customers. His website, [franksmithsigns.com](http://franksmithsigns.com), displays numerous samples of his work, many of which you'll probably recognize.

You may not realize, however, that Frank also does work for residential customers. He carves house numbers and designs camp signs in styles that range from rustic to quite refined. He even draws pet portraits from snapshots. He also dabbles in junk sculpture and stained glass.

When asked what he likes most about his work, Frank replies, "The great variety is wonderful; I never get too bored and I never know who I'll meet next. Over the years it gets pretty satisfying to make so many small but solid improvements in our city."

When he's not busy at work Frank enjoys kayaking on the Normanskill. In fact, he is looking for a kayaking buddy. On parts of the Normanskill, he notes, "You can't see or hear any sign of the city and you can't ask for more relaxing exercise. I feel it's the greatest natural treasure Albany has."

**Frank Smith Signs, 338 New Scotland Ave. (449-8945)**  
**website: [franksmithsigns.com](http://franksmithsigns.com).**

*Susan VanDeventer*

**Thanks to the following businesses that support the Helderberg Neighborhood Association by joining as business members:**

Bello Belsito Restaurant	Joseph M. Turley Hearing Aids
Bethlehem School	Landmark Consulting
Clas Florist	New Scotland Florist
Crestwood Pharmacy	New Scotland Mobil
David Phaff – Realty USA	Pamela Lemme – Remax, Delmar
Deja View Video	Pasquales Restaurant
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**Summer Youth Employment Program Announces Application Date**

Applications will soon be accepted for the City of Albany Summer Youth Employment Program, which will run from Monday, July 9 through Friday, August 17, 2007. Any 14 to 18 year old teen who wants a summer job may register.

Applicants must bring working papers, a birth certificate and a social security card to Bleeker Stadium when they register on the following dates:

Returning summer youth employees – Saturday, March 24 and Saturday, March 31, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

New summer applicants – Monday, April 2 through Thursday, April 5 – 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Camp worksite supervisors (ages 18+) - have until June 1, 2007 to submit their applications.

Given the large number of youth served in this program, applications may not be accepted after these dates.

Contact the Department of Youth and Workforce Services at 462-7600 ext. 166 for additional information.



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

**Madison Theater to hold Movie Premiere**

The Madison Theater will premiere the latest film by Tom Mercer, *UnCivil Liberties*. The film is a political thriller based in the near future. The plot involves an architect of a high tech governmental surveillance project who soon learns domestic spying is a slippery slope when her system falsely links her with anti-government terrorists.

*UnCivil Liberties* is based on Mercer's previous short film, *Face of the Enemy*, which was showcased at the Madison in October, 2005. Many thanks to Jay Pregent of the Madison for continuing to support local filmmakers.

The film will be shown for one week only during the following times:

- Friday, March 9: 4, 7, 9 and midnight
- Saturday, March 10: Noon, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10
- Sunday, March 11: Noon, 2, 4, 6, 8
- Monday, March 12: 7, 9
- Tuesday, March 13: 7, 9
- Wednesday, March 14: 7, 9
- Thursday, March 15: 7, 9



**Exhibit at the Opalka Gallery**

**March 11 to April 15, 2007: The Illustrated Heart.**

- Curated by Esther Tornai Thyssen.
- Reception, Sunday, March 25, 1:00-4:00 pm.

**Landmark Consulting**  
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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 and architectural historian. 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.**

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HNA's membership year runs January to December. Your dues help support the cost of this newsletter and several free events throughout the year. Time to renew your membership!



**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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