

HNA REPORTER

HELDERBERG NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

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NEXT HNA MEETING:
Wednesday, May 18, 2005
7:00—9:00 pm
Sage Colleges, Campus Center

Guests: Jeff Cannell and John Cirin, Albany Public Library *and* Developer Tom Burke and lawyer Peter Lynch will discuss the proposal to build a Walgreens on Holland Ave.

Refreshments available following the meeting

DEAR NEIGHBORS:

It appears that Spring has finally decided to show up in our fair City. While our “Spring Spree Along New Scotland Avenue” event had to be rescheduled to May 14, due to inclement weather, Albany’s Tulip Fest had its best weather in years. HNA’s 2nd Annual HNA Plant Swap on April 30th ushered in the gardening season. For those who may be interested, the annual City of Albany Tulip Bulb Sale will take place in Washington Park on May 22. Come early in the morning and BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag).

Our Association continues to set new milestones for success: the long-sought re-surfacing of the road bed along Hackett Boulevard is finally taking place; the HNA Business Directory is ready to go to the printer; and our Spring Spree event to showcase Neighborhood businesses is the next step in our plan to create a series of year-round events in the community. Oh, and don’t forget to save Wednesday, September 21 - the annual HNA Picnic!

I want to extend special thanks to the efforts of Spring Spree event Chair Dennis Gaffney, Business Committee Chair Jennifer Viggiani, the designer of our Business Directory Frank Boscoe, and so many others. The efforts of HNA members have earned our neighborhood a rapidly developing reputation as the premier neighborhood in which to live and work.

I hope you all join us at the May 18 meeting to hear more about the Albany Library plans, as well as the request to place a Walgreen’s on Holland Avenue next to McDonalds. There was much discussion about this plan at the last meeting, mostly negative. The developer, Tom Burke, wanted an opportunity to discuss his plan and to hear our concerns.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Spring Spree on May 14 and our meeting on May 18!

Craig Waltz, Chair

A portion of the printing of this newsletter has been provided as a public service by



Spring Spree and Treasure Hunt on New Scotland Avenue

This Saturday, May 14, 11:00 am -2:00 pm



The Spring Spree on New Scotland Avenue has been rescheduled for this Saturday, May 14 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The day’s main activity will consist of a treasure hunt in which participants will visit some neighborhood businesses to answer trivia questions about their stores. Those who fill out the treasure hunt card (don’t worry, it’s easy) will enter a **raffle for \$600 worth of business gift packages**, including free dinners, flower bouquets, haircuts, lunches, movie rentals, or a few nightcaps at a local bar. **The businesses will also offer free samples and promos including free pizza, chocolates, flowers, photo specials and much, much, much more!**

To participate in the fun, stop by a registration table in front of Isn’t It Sweet (across from St. Peter’s Hospital) or New Scotland Florist (the corner of Grove Ave.) The raffle will be held at 2:00 pm in front of New Scotland Florist (your presence is not required). For more information or to volunteer to help, call Dennis Gaffney at 482-9813 or email dgaffney@nycap.rr.com.

HNA Plant Swap a Success

The second annual HNA plant swap took place on April 30, and drew more people, and more importantly, more plants than last year. A few dozen HNA residents turned out in the drizzle to trade hostas, day lilies, canna lilies, irises, bee balm, forget-me-nots, jacob’s ladder, and other plants, along with gardening wisdom. The leftover plants are being used to beautify area schools.



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 7/20, 9/21 (annual picnic) and 11/16.

HNA Reporter is published every other month. Deadlines for articles or ads are 1/2; 3/1; 5/1; 7/1; 9/1; 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.

HNA would like to thank Cheryl A. Moore, Photographer, for joining HNA as a business member this month.

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Friends of the Madison To Receive Awards

Friends of the Madison is being honored by two local organizations on the following dates:

Neighborhood Resource Center - Tuesday May 10, 6:00 pm

The Neighborhood Resource Center supports local neighborhood associations, and their brochure of contact information for all Albany neighborhood associations was extremely helpful as Friends of the Madison got organized and reached out to the local neighborhoods.

NRC is honoring Friends of the Madison as "Outstanding Organization" at their annual meeting and awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 10 at the Sage College Campus Center. This meeting is free and open to the public.

Historic Albany Foundation - Thursday, May 26, 5:30 pm - \$10 admission

Historic Albany Foundation works to promote the preservation and appreciation of the built environment in and around Albany. HAF has been actively involved with Friends of the Madison since the very beginning and their support and advice has been immeasurable. HAF will recognize Friends of the Madison with a preservation merit award at their annual meeting on Thursday, May 26 at the Roman Catholic Chancery, One Sprague Place (near Washington Park). There is a \$10 admission, and you should RSVP if you plan to attend. Contact Mikki Rozdolski at 465-0876 or rsvp@historic-albany.org.

Vote on Albany School Budget: Tuesday, May 17

Albany residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 17 to decide on a \$157 million 2005-06 school budget proposal, which represents a tax rate increase of 3.9%. The budget provides resources for the expansion and addition of academic programs, as well as funds for a new middle-level system of three small grade 6-8 middle schools and a K-8 neighborhood school. Nearly \$1.3 million of the budget increase, or 1.5% of the estimated tax rate increase, supports the district's goal to strengthen and improve its middle schools.

For homeowners, the increase will result in an additional 85 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Business owners will pay \$29.29 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Where to vote: HNA neighbors who reside in the 7th Ward will vote at St. James Church, 50 Summit Avenue. Those in the 9th Ward will vote at School 19.

There will be a **Friends of the Madison Meeting** on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 at St. Vincent's Parish Center, 984 Madison Avenue. There will be discussion on the progress the group has made on several fronts, and several mini-meetings to tell you about committees and gather your ideas.

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two dozen neighbors in raincoats and muddy shoes gathered under a damp sky to trade perennials and planning advice. But this annual plant swap, sponsored by the Helderberg Neighborhood Association, also reminded me of another exchange, albeit with the more serious purpose of preventing starvation, in northern Uganda.

I was there in March to report on a 19-year insurrection that has displaced 1.6 million people and caused untold misery among the Acholi people. Since most farmers have had to desert their fields and villages for fear of attack by the rebels, they can grow only a few crops on small plots near their resettlement camps. To help, Catholic Relief Services operates seed fairs. Typically, technicians develop improved versions of local crops and train farmers who raise and sell these at the seed fairs to other farmers, who are given CRS vouchers. The seed fairs promote self-reliance, disperse cash in small amounts and encourage local crops and practices. In contrast, the UN has a complex of warehouses and airfields and a fleet of cargo planes and trucks which dump foodstuffs grown in the US and Europe. While that may feed people today, it undercuts local farmers and worsens dependence.

This humble work parallels our swap here in Albany. We trade plant that are, generally, indigenous, non-invasive, and able to flourish without chemical assistance. We could use our version of the UN and go on-line to order up plants from all over the world or call some fancy nursery service. Instead, like the farmers in northern Uganda, we go local. We cooperate, we barter. Our yards, the neighborhood and the city all benefit (leftovers are planted in front of local schools). The same principle is saving lives in Uganda. At the Teetogu camp, home to 17,000 displaced Acholi, Jimmy Nyeko, the community leader, said the system encouraged camp residents to use the small plots available. "Last year we did very well," he said. "We've had enough food to survive till now."

Christopher D. Ringwald is a writer and Helderberg Neighborhood resident.



CA Moore
 Photography

An ad in the HNA Reporter only costs \$17.00 an issue.

Community by joining Parsons Child and Family Center for their 73rd annual Lawn Festival. The neighborhood event will be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2005 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm with a rain date scheduled for June 9, also at 6:00 p.m. There is no entrance fee and there are nominal charges for some activities and food.

Since 1932, the Parsons annual Lawn Festival has been an important agency tradition that provides an evening of fun for the children and families in our care, as well as our neighbors and friends.

Festival attractions will include hayrides, miniature golf, petting zoo, carnival games, music, entertainment, food and much more. Be a part of the crowd and enjoy the fun. If you'd like to get more involved as a volunteer for the event or as a donor, please contact Dana Woods at (518) 426-2704.

Garage Sale on Sunday, June 26, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Bargain seekers can preview the sale items on Saturday, June 25, 7:00-9:00 pm, for a small entrance fee. Beth Emeth is located at 100 Academy Road, Albany. Call 436-9761 for information.

Rape Crisis Program in Need of Volunteers

The Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center is seeking hotline volunteers to provide comfort and support to sexual assault survivors as well as volunteers willing to assist with basic office tasks, including data entry. To learn more about these positions, please call 447-7100, or go to the Center's website: www.albanycounty.com (once there, go to Departments, then Crime Victims.) Hotline training will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, beginning May 31 at the Center, 112 State St., Albany.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Tuesday, August 2: National Night Out - time for block parties!
Wednesday, September 21: Annual HNA Picnic.

Upcoming Gardening Events

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County has a number of gardening events scheduled for May and June:

Garden Education Day: May 21 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm - plant sale and garden demonstrations.

Hypertufa Class: June 11 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm - participants will make a lightweight stone trough planter. The cost is \$30 and includes materials. Space in the class is limited. Call Billie-Jo at 765-3500 for more information.

Talks in the Garden: June 21 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. The talks give area residents an opportunity to get advice about dealing with garden problems and pests. Bring samples of pests or damaged leaves for identification and troubleshooting.

All events will be held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office and gardens at 24 Martin Road in Voorheesville.

Office Hours By Appointment

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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

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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