

HNA REPORTER

HELDERBERG NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

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**Next HNA Membership Meeting:
WEDNESDAY, May 17, 2006
7:00 PM**

**The Sage College of Albany
Campus Center, Room 224**

**Guest Speaker: Judy Stacy, Master Gardener
for the City of Albany**

2006 Spring Spree a Success!

What a beautiful day in the neighborhood! The 2nd annual Spring Spree on Saturday, May 6 was a joy, with hundreds of people coming out to celebrate our New Scotland neighborhood and local businesses. The Treasure Hunt included 110 participants, most of them families. The streets were full of revelers who enjoyed the company of neighbors and the generous promotions from so many businesses and \$700 worth of gift certificates given out in the raffle.

It took a neighborhood of people to make the day hum, but a special thanks goes to: Julie Elson, for involving the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, our co-sponsor this year; Robyn Diaz of Central Avenue Art Supply for the chalk art contest; Frank Smith for his beautiful Spring Spree signs; Officers Kathi Rissberger and Matthew Montesano for the bike rodeo and taking care of so many logistics; Captain Coleman from the Albany Fire Department; the facepainters, including Megan Murphy, Nancy Perini, Sam and Sylvie Wickstrom, and Madeleine and Jeanne Ringwald; the amazing musicians, who all played for next to nothing: Sue and Jim Mead, our neighborhood caller Paul Rosenberg, Patricia Kernan and Tom Smith of Double Progression, violinist Amy Biancolli, George Doody of Geo and the Komrades and Jimmy Kelly; and all the deliverers of flyers who did an extra Spring Spree delivery. Thanks also to the many organizers, including Kim Alvarez, who designed the spectacular spring spree flyers; Jennifer Viggiani, Grace Farrell, Dennis Gaffney, Craig Waltz and Deb Schramek; and all our elected and appointed representatives who joined us, including Mayor Jerry Jennings, library director Jeffrey Cannell, Police Chief James Tuffey, Common Council Members Jim Sano, Cathy Fahey, Shawn Morris; and to all our treasure businesses, especially Victoria at Pasquale's and Tanjia at New Scotland Florist for helping organize everything!

We are all looking forward to next year!

Dennis Gaffney

HNA Neighborhood wide garage sale: Saturday, June 10

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 2006 meeting dates are: July 19, September 20 (picnic) and November 15.

HNA Reporter is published every other month. Deadlines for articles or ads are 1/2; 2/22; 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.

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DEAR NEIGHBORS:

Spring is in full swing and summer is fast upon us! The two sure signs of that are:

- The highly successful 2nd Annual Spring Spree; and
- Tulipfest weekend, which will begin May 12

Both of these events have special meaning for our neighborhood association. The first because our own Spring Spree Chairperson Dennis Gaffney coordinated a terrific event to showcase our neighborhood businesses – small businesses ideally suited to the walkable, residential neighborhood we live in. The event was co-sponsored by our friends from the New Scotland-Woodlawn Neighborhood Association. There was music, art contests, dancing, and even a bike rodeo. Several of our elected officials, including Common Council Members Cathy Fahey and Jim Sano, Council President Shawn Morris, Mayor Jennings and Assemblyman Jack McEneny, were on hand to offer words of support and encouragement. They were joined by Albany Public Library Director Jeff Cannell and Police Chief Jim Tuffey, both of whom stated their ongoing commitment to maintaining the high level of resources devoted to serving our neighborhood.



Spring Spree 2006

The second sign, Tulipfest, is even more special this year because one of our own, Mary Nealon, the daughter of Cyra and George Nealon, is on the Tulip Court and in contention for

the title of Tulip Queen. Let's all extend our hopes and good wishes to Mary in her quest for the crown. She will make an excellent representative of our neighborhood and our city.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the school budget vote is scheduled for Tuesday May 16. The same day, we will vote on the annual Public Library budget and to fill vacancies on the Library Board of Trustees. Since we are asking the Library Board to commit to providing a new branch library for our neighborhood, I urge you to pass the Library budget. It is one more way to show the commitment we as neighbors have to life in the Helderberg Neighborhood.

See you at the meeting!

Craig Waltz, Chair

Burglaries In and Around the HNA Area

There has been an increase in daytime burglaries in March and April, including approximately 7 burglaries in March in the upper New Scotland/Western Avenue side streets. There have been approximately four daytime burglaries/attempted burglaries in April. One was an attempted burglary in the Helderberg area and one on a side street between Hackett and Whitehall. There were also 7 or so daytime burglaries in the Helderberg neighborhood back in January.

Almost all of these burglaries and attempts involved forced entry either through a broken window or glass on a door. Since these burglaries are occurring in broad daylight, it is of utmost importance that neighbors call the police (438-4000 non-emergency and 911 emergency) when they see person(s) who look like they don't belong. These strangers are probably casing the houses. They may be ringing the doorbell to see if someone is home. If someone answers, they may pretend to be selling something or have the wrong address. If this happens to anyone please call the police.

Fences that you can't see through and overgrown landscaping can provide concealment for the burglars while they're trying to break in. In one of the burglaries, access was gained via a hidden key in a box near the back door. **DON'T HIDE A KEY!**

In April, two men were arrested for some of the break-ins. But that doesn't mean the rash of burglaries is over. You must remain ever vigilant to prevent future ones.

Below, I have listed some burglary prevention tips. I can't stress this enough: call in suspicious persons/cars. Most of the items taken in these burglaries are small items, such as jewelry, cash and some electronic games. So suspicious persons with duffle bags, pillow cases, etc. warrant a call to the police. The bad guys could be walking, on a bike, or in a car.

*Officer Kathleen Rissberger
Albany Police Department
Community Services Unit
(518) 458-5669*

Albany Police Department: Burglary Prevention Tips


Burglars aim for the easiest targets. Almost half of all completed residential burglaries result from thieves simply gaining entry through unlocked doors or windows. Most burglars will give up and move on if they can't get in within a few minutes. To keep burglars away from your house or apartment, make their work difficult, risky and low-profit.

- Keep doors, windows and garages closed and locked, even in the daytime.
- Secure your sliding glass doors by putting a broomstick handle in the floor tracks to prevent the door from being slid open if the lock is thwarted.
- Use deadbolt locks on exterior doors.
- Don't hide a key. Burglars know where to look for keys.
- Keep all exterior lights on at night.
- Keep shrubs/trees clear from window areas. This could provide concealment to a burglar.
- Remove tools and ladders when you are done with them. Don't help a burglar do his job.

If you are going away for a weekend or holidays:

- Cancel all deliveries—paper, mail—or ask a trusted neighbor to pick them up for you.
- Arrange for someone to shovel your sidewalks in the winter.
- Use automatic timers to turn your lights on at designated times.
- Never leave any notes outside on your door or mailbox indicating you are away.
- If you come home and suspect your house has been broken into, do not go in. Call police.

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HNA PLANT SWAP OUR BIGGEST YET

The third annual HNA plant swap was the biggest yet. At the April 29 event, neighbors gathered to exchange plants, share gardening tips and commiserate about the ravages squirrels wreck in our flowerbeds. Plants offered this year included marigolds, peppers, hostas, geraniums, rose of sharon, bee balm, lobelia, day lilies, red hot polar and many more.

Thanks to Kathy Ray who was the inspiration behind the plant swap for the past three years. The swap has raised \$62 for the neighborhood association to date. Be sure to join us next spring!

UPCOMING GARAGE SALES

Saturday, June 1: Delaware Avenue Neighborhood Association will hold an indoor garage and bake sale at the Sheehy-Palmer VFW Post, 525 Delaware Avenue. This is a fund-raiser to help pay the cost of the lawsuit being filed regarding the rezoning of Holland Avenue. For information, or to reserve a table for your items (\$10 per table) call Maureen at 626-9069.

Saturday, June 10: The annual HNA Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale will be held from 9am-3pm. Signs announcing the garage sale will be placed along New Scotland Avenue from Fleetwood to Academy. HNA will also pay for an ad in the Times Union. There is no need to register—just put up your table by your house and start selling!

Sunday, June 11: The annual Congregation Beth Emeth Garage Sale, 100 Academy Road, will be held from 9am-3 pm. There will be a preview sale on Saturday, June 10, from 7-9 pm for a \$10 entrance fee. Call 436-9761 for information.

Four Who Assisted Committee on University and Community Relations Honored in March

Four people who helped shape the Committee on University and Community Relations were recognized on March 21 for their work on behalf of the Committee. The Committee was formed in 1989 as a task force to address neighborhood complaints aimed at students, mostly from the University at Albany. Since then, the group has grown to include five other local colleges, along with businesses, tavern owners and police.

Among the four who were honored were Officer Kathleen Rissberger, a frequent attendee at our HNA meetings. She often sends us updates for our newsletter (see page 2 of this issue). The other three were Michael Byron, owner of the Washington Tavern and the Ginger Man; the Rev. Vernon Victorson of the First Lutheran Church; and Officer Karen Mink, who is assigned to Center Station with Officer Rissberger. Congratulations to all!

New Hours for Tone & Fit Fitness Center

Tone & Fit, the 30-minute women's fitness center at 287 New Scotland Avenue, has changed their hours. Effective May 1 they are now open:
Mon. – Thurs.: 5:30-10:00 am; closed 10-3; open 3:00-8:00 pm
Fri.: 5:30-10:00 am; closed 10-3; open 3:00-7:00 pm
Sat. & Sun.: 9:00 am-12:00 noon

They also offer Weight Watchers meetings at 5:30 pm on Mondays, Kripalu Yoga from 6:00-7:00 pm on Tuesdays and Pilates from 6:00-7:00 pm on Wednesdays. A variety of new AM-PM classes are now forming. They have also added a new tanning bed.

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Don't forget to vote on May 16 between 7am-9pm. Albany residents will vote on both the school budget and the Albany Public Library budget. They will also choose two people for the library's Board of Trustees. To learn more about the school budget, go to www.albanyschools.org; for information on the library budget or the candidates for the Board, go to albanypubliclibrary.org.

Polling locations: 7th ward, St. James School, 50 Summit Avenue; 9th ward, School 19, 369 New Scotland Avenue.

Parsons Child and Family Center 74th annual Lawn Festival

Come one, come all to Parsons Child and Family Center's 74th annual Lawn Festival held at Parsons on 60 Academy Road Wednesday June 7 from 6-8 p.m. (Rain date June 8.) Admission and parking is free. Festival attractions include hayrides, miniature golf, a petting zoo, carnival games, live music, food, and so much more. Activities are either free or available for a nominal charge. If you would like to volunteer for the event, please contact Kathy Burbank at (518) 426-2704. For information go to www.parsonscenter.org or email burbank@parsonscenter.org.

Scrabble, Knitting and More at the Library

You will find much more than books at the New Scotland Branch of the Albany Public Library. Scrabble lovers can get in a match or two on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:45 pm. People of all ages are welcome to drop in and watch or play. If knitting interests you, stop by on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm for the knitting circle. The library has extra needles, yarn, and project ideas on hand for those who aren't sure what they'd like to make. Other events include toddler story times (Wednesdays at 10:30 am) and after school crafts on Fridays at 3:30 pm. These days and times are good through May. The Scrabble and knitting schedules are likely to remain the same through the summer. To learn more, give the library staff a call at 482-6661. You may also use this number to arrange for

free tutoring for children by Albany College of Pharmacy students.

Knit and Nosh

Want to learn how to knit, or join a great group of women knitters? Drop by Congregation Beth Emeth any Monday from 7-8:30 pm, where like-minded women come together to knit, talk and eat! Called Jo Anne Milhausen at 439-1760 to learn more about this great group of knitters!

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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, including this year's annual September Picnic on 9/20/06.

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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