

HNA REPORTER

HELDERBERG NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

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NEXT HNA MEETING:

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

7:00-9:00 pm

Sage College, Campus Center, Room 224

Scott Wexler, School Board President, will discuss the impact of the Facilities Plan, and the upcoming school budget vote.

Refreshments following the meeting

DEAR NEIGHBORS:

Well Folks, spring is definitely upon us and summer is soon to follow. Time to get the mowers out and fire up the grill. This is the time of year when neighborhood beautification really bursts forth. Is there anything more pleasing to the eye than a well manicured lawn or a colorful garden?

While it is important to enjoy the nice weather, we should also remember to be considerate of our neighbors. Try to keep noise to a minimum. With so many children playing outside, be on the look-out for kids chasing a ball or a frisbee into the street.

I want to express my thanks for the great turnout at our March meeting and all the comments you provided to Library Director Jeff Cannell on the Library Facilities Plan. He definitely got the message that we want to keep our neighborhood library. I have spoken to Jeff since the meeting and he wanted me to assure you that the Library Board is committed to meeting the needs of all city residents. I think it is important that as the Library Facilities process continues, so should the input from our association and its members. I will continue to monitor any developments and we will keep you informed through the *HNA Reporter*. To paraphrase Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can make a difference in the world. Indeed, they are the only thing that does." As a small group of dedicated neighbors we have the ability to make a difference in our community. Securing a neighborhood branch library for the enjoyment and enrichment of young and old alike is one more way for HNA to make a positive difference in our community.

I hope you are planning to attend the upcoming neighborhood-wide garage sale on Saturday, May 22. It is an excellent opportunity to get to know your neighbors and get some good deals.

I look forward to seeing you all at our May 19 meeting!

Craig Waltz, Chair

Updates Since the March HNA Meeting

- Jeff Cannell, Albany Library Director, discussed the future plans for the library at the March 10 HNA meeting. Cannell noted that the School 19 branch is going to close when the school is renovated in 2008. The November advisory report, "Envisioning the Future of the Albany Public Library," recommended that the Delaware branch and the New Scotland branch be combined into one larger library of approximately 20,000 square feet. The majority of the HNA members at the meeting made it clear that they wanted to keep a branch in the neighborhood, even if it means a library that's a bit smaller than a combined one. Being able to walk to the library was more important than a larger one with more facilities. Cannell thanked the members for their opinions which he will present to the Advisory Committee. He said that it would probably take from 9 months to a year to decide on the plan that would be put forward to Albany voters to decide.
- The city is looking for volunteers for the Citizen Library Advisory Committee, which will make recommendations on the future of a neighborhood library.
- HNA will hold a neighborhood wide garage sale on May 22. The city of Albany has an ordinance allowing residents to hold no more than two garage sales a year. The neighborhood sale will not count towards the limit.
- Jim Sano announced the Free Tree program is on hold while the city does a tree inventory.
- Albany is preparing to conduct a Midtown Colleges and University Investment Study, a planning study that will look at the future of housing and the commercial areas near the College of Saint Rose, Sage College, and University Heights Association. The plan will also study New Scotland Avenue. This is an opportunity to let the city know about neighborhood quality of life, housing and commercial issues - and an opportunity for partnerships to make some improvements. Contact Jennifer Viggiani, 489-3824 or jviggiani@behanplanning.com for more information.

REMINDER: HNA will sponsor a neighborhood garage sale on May 22 and a Plant Swap on June 5. See flyer for details of both events.

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: 7/21, 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; 8/23; 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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Picnic**

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HNA, UHA Mourn the Passing of Mara Oakes

HNA lost a friend in March. Mara Oakes, the Public Relations Director for the University Heights Association (UHA), was killed in a car accident on March 14, 2004 by an alleged drunk driver. Mara was a frequent guest at HNA meetings, along with her co-worker June McQuide. Mara's energy, enthusiasm and commitment to maintaining good town/gown relations between University Heights and the surrounding neighborhoods will be greatly missed.

UHA has established a scholarship fund in Mara's memory. The Mara Oakes Memorial Scholarship Fund, established through the Community Foundation for the Capital Region, will award \$1,000 to a second-year student at one of the four UHA institutions. Contributions to the fund can be sent to June McQuide at UHA, 130 New Scotland Ave., Albany, NY 12208.

Real Estate in the Neighborhood

The current real estate market would be characterized as a "seller's market," as continued low interest rates encourage buyers, who are out in force. A homeowner who has decided to market his property has found himself in possession of a hot commodity, and may face the pleasant prospect of sifting through three or four purchase offers.

In 2002, 27 single-family homes and 8 two-family homes were sold in the Helderberg neighborhood. In 2003, 32 single-family homes and 9 two-family homes were sold. Last year, most houses were sold within eight days of listing.

In the Helderberg neighborhood, prices have been steadily rising, as they have in many communities in the Capital Region. In 2002, the average price for a single-family home in our immediate neighborhood was \$112,183, and two-family sales averaged \$118,686. In 2003, single-family homes jumped to an average sale price of \$123,144, and two-families increased to an average of \$129,833. All signs point to the trend continuing, as home prices in our neighborhood continue their climb.

*Nancy Klopfer
Coldwell Banker
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Remember to Vote on May 18

On Tuesday, May 18, residents of Albany will be voting on the school budget for the 2004-5 school year. Residents will also vote on the Library budget, as well as on two school propositions. Refer to the Capital Education bulletin of May, 2004 that was recently distributed to all households.

There are 2 polling places in this neighborhood: 7th Ward — St. James School, 50 Summit Ave.; and 9th Ward — School 19, 369 New Scotland Ave. If you are not sure of your ward, call the County Board of Elections at 487-5060. Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm.

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HNA Reporter welcomes the following new businesses:

Pasquale's Pizza and Restaurant

Are you ready to have some of the best homemade Italian dinners and pizza in the Capital Region? Then come over to the brand-new Pasquale's Restaurant at 261 New Scotland Avenue (where the old Stewart's used to be). This restaurant just opened on March 22 and is run by sister and brother, Victoria Gelaj and Pasquale Camaj.

Pasquale was a chef in the Palms Too restaurant in Manhattan for 18 years. The Palms Too has been run by the same family for ten generations and has served movie stars and celebrities such as Paul McCartney, Donald Trump and George Pataki. Victoria previously owned her own pizza parlor near Rome, New York.

Their menu includes appetizers, wings, burgers, salads, subs and baked dishes. The pizza is New York Style thin crust and they offer 16 different toppings from Roma Spinach



New Scotland Florist
263 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
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Newscotlandflorist@earthlink.net
Tanja Maynard & Candace Cheung

to Hawaiian to Italian Chicken. Now for the entrees—there are nine different pasta entrees as well as eight different dishes with chicken, veal, eggplant, and shrimp. Stop by and try out the newest and most Italian restaurant in our neighborhood.

Cyra Nealon

New Scotland Florist

We have new neighbors! The New Scotland Florist, on the corner of Grove and New Scotland, opened under new management in November, 2003. Tanija Maynard, a former geologist and a devotee of flowers, began looking for a different line of work when she became a mother last year. Her childhood friend, Candace Cheung, was ready to put her degree in Education, Air Force experience and artistic talents to different use for the same reason. The pair are first-time business owners. As Maynard notes, "The time was good to buy the store and I can walk to work!"



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The store is open daily and provides arrangements for all occasions. Specials of mixed bouquets start at \$10, Gerber Daisies at \$15. You'll also find handmade greeting cards, potted plants, stuffed animals and some gifts on their shelves. If you can't make up your mind, you can mull over your options while sitting on the inviting floral-upholstered couch at the entryway. Wire service is available and credit cards are accepted. Hours are Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm, Sat. 9am-3pm, and Sun. 10am-3pm.

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Compost and woodchips made from the leaves, grass clippings, and branches the city collects are available at no charge to Albany city residents. For small amounts, bring a shovel and your own containers to the "help yourself" pickup station at the dead end of Erie Boulevard (open seven days a week). You may also buy truckloads of woodchips or compost for \$10.00 per cubic yard at the Department of General Services' compost facility at One Conners Boulevard (off Erie Boulevard). The city does not deliver, but city workers will load it onto your truck. Hours for the compost facility are Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to noon and 12:30-2:30 PM. Call the Albany Department of General Services at (518) 427-7480 for more information.



283 NEW SCOTLAND AVE. ALBANY, N.Y. 12208

The Fountain Restaurant, Inc.

TEL. (518) 482-9898

Spring Clean-up and Hazardous Waste Disposal Dates Set

Albany has scheduled May 18 as spring clean-up day in the HNA neighborhood. Residents may place their extra trash curbside the evening before. Do not place any hazardous waste materials curbside; those items must be taken to the Rapp Road Landfill between 4pm-7pm on May 20, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2. Advance registration is required. Call 494-2273 to register.



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Annual **Beth Emeth Garage Sale** - Sunday, June 6, Academy Road, Albany.

St. Teresa's Food Pantry needs the following items: Canned chicken and turkey, canned fruit, canned spaghetti sauce, coffee (instant and perc), cereal, juice in plastic containers, small containers of laundry detergent, and plastic and paper bags. Items may be left at the rectory.

St. Teresa of Avila School is now accepting applications for the 2004-5 school year. The school offers nursery school, pre-K, and full-time kindergarten through grade 8. An after school program runs until 5:30 each evening. Come to the **Open House** on May 13, 7:00 pm to learn about the programs offered.

St. Teresa of Avila Parish 3rd Annual Golf Tournament: June 28, 2004, at Capital Hills at Albany. The Tournament will benefit St. Teresa's School. Call 458-8732 for information.



Tips for Successful House Painting

Spring means spending more time outside working on our homes. Perhaps this is the year you decide to give your house an "extreme make-over." A new paint job can significantly increase your property's value in addition to increasing your pride of place. Although the general consensus is that everyone hates to paint, painting is the most profitable improvement you can make to your home. A good paint job requires the right knowledge, skilled labor with the appropriate tools, and proper preparation to achieve a lasting product. With the right painting contractor and materials the return will be very rewarding – both aesthetically and financially—you will be confident that your paint job will last for many years.

A few things to take into consideration when taking on an exterior painting project, whether you "do-it-yourself" or hire a qualified painting contractor: 1) A multi-colored scheme which calls out the details and trim from the body of the building is more historically correct and will be more aesthetically successful; 2) Surface preparation, such as scraping, sanding and priming is *the* most important step and should consist of 75% of the project time. If it doesn't, you can expect to paint again in a few years. 3) Lastly, a little extra money spent now on painting products, from scrapers, to brushes, to paint, will save you a lot down the road with the durability of your paint job. If you are hiring a painting contractor, ask about products and materials, or better yet specify that he or she use the materials you would if you were doing the project yourself in order to ensure the quality and durability of the paint.

Kimberly Konrad Alvarez

**The following businesses have become members of HNA:
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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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