

HNA REPORTER

HELDERBERG NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

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Next HNA Membership Meeting:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2005

7:00 PM

Sage College, Campus Center, Room 224

Guest: John Cirin, Albany Public Library

DEAR NEIGHBORS:

As anyone who has been watching or listening to the news can tell you, this year has seen the most active hurricane season ever. Fortunately for our friends and loved ones to the south, hurricane season comes to an end this month.

In our community we are experiencing our own kind of hurricane - a swirling maelstrom of development projects, including: the Park South Plan which now has an approved developer, Winn Development, to oversee a comprehensive re-development design; the ongoing Walgreen's proposal for a Holland Avenue store; Albany Medical Center's construction of an addition to the hospital and plans to build a 126 room Hilton Hotel near the corner of Holland and New Scotland Avenues; and St. Peter's plan for a multi-year construction project valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars. HNA appears to be the eye of a major hurricane named "Urban Renewal."

We have weathered such storms before and I am confident that our neighborhood will remain intact. However, we can only do it by working together to let the array of different developers know what we will accept, and what we won't.

I am pleased to say that our Executive Board remains united in their commitment to make certain that your voices are heard throughout this process. Our elected city officials are supportive of HNA and continue to keep us apprised of all developments.

At our November meeting, John Cirin of the Albany Public Library will present an update on the Library facilities plan in general and the New Scotland Avenue branch in particular. John was unable to attend our May meeting but has promised to make up for it this month with up-to-date information of interest to all the residents of HNA.

Also at the meeting, we will be accepting nominations for all HNA Executive Board positions. Elections will take place at our January meeting. My thanks to all the Board members for their hard work this past year. You made our Association's events into a string of successes.

Continued on page 2

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HNA's Annual Picnic a Success!

The sixth annual HNA Picnic was held on September 21 next to the firehouse on New Scotland Avenue. The weather was perfect for an evening picnic that drew close to 250 people who enjoyed good food and good company. Many left with one of the dozens of prizes donated by area businesses. We all have Olga Tenney to thank for her tireless dedication to making the picnic such a success.

We are grateful to the following establishments who have generously contributed services, supplies, food and/or financial support for our picnic. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support over the years.

SERVICES:

- Mayor Jerry Jennings for allowing us to use the field;
- Jim Sano, 9th Ward Councilman, for securing and paying for the permit to use the field;
- Albany Firehouse Engine No. 11 for their assistance during the picnic;
- Our cooks, Paul Collins, Craig Waltz and Jim Sano, and their assistants, Terry Waltz and Dawn and Don Dugan.

FOOD:

- Domino's Pizza (Kamrul Islam, Manager)
- Dunkin Donuts (Mr. & Mrs. Al Prudencio, Owners; Christina Prudencio, Manager)
- Gallo's Deli & Pizzeria (Frank Gallo, Owner)
- Graney's Bar and Grill (Michael Graney, Owner, Nikia Sawyer, Manager)
- New Scotland Mobil (Keyvan, Owner, Triq, Manager)
- Pasquales Pizza Restaurant (Victoria Gelaj, Owner)
- Ragonese Italian Imports (John & Vinny Ragonese, Owners)
- Sainato's Market (Mr. & Mrs. Lou Sainato, Owners)
- Spinners (Tony Lownello, Owner)
- Stewarts Shop 124 (Shannon Cowles, Manager)
- Subway (Gurpreet Sidhu, Owner/Manager)
- The Pantry (Jean Paolucci, Owner)

Continued on page 2

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 2006 meeting dates are: January 18, March 15, May 17, July 19, September 20 and November 15.

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.



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- Deja View Video (Steve Johnson, Owner)
- The Fountain Restaurant, Inc. (Bonnie Venedetti, Owner; Patrick McAvoy, Manager)
- Gold Key Chinese Kitchen (Sun, Manager)
- Isn't It Sweet (Frank Voce, Owner, Brian Bennett, Manager)
- Key Bank (Laurel Cioppa, Assistant Vice President)
- McCaffrey's Irish Pub: Tom McCaffrey, Owner; Ned Gardner, Manager)
- RJN Physical Therapy (Richard Waite, P.T. and Joseph O'Hagan, P.T.A., Owners)
- New Scotland Florist (Tanya Manard, Owner)
- Ritmo's Barber Salon (Joe Ritmo, Owner)
- Sheehy Opticians (Matthew J. Sheehy, Owner)
- Shutter Speed Photo (Sami and Karen, Owners)
- SuzyYoga Studio (Suzy Sherer Arenos, Owner)
- Pete & Olga Tenney
- Tone & Fit (Frank & Kathy Stramiello, Owners/Managers)
- Trustco Bank (Kim Rexford, Manager)

SUPPLIES:

- Mr. Subb (David Van, Manager)
- St. Teresa of Avila Church and School (Father Vincent Ciotoli, Pastor)

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- Brian Bussey, Exclusive Agent, Honor Ring, Allstate Insurance Company
- Crestwood Pharmacy (Jagat Patel, Pharm.D, Owner/Manager)
- Robert Deitz, DDS
- New Scotland Chiropractic Office (Seth Kohl, M.S., D.C.)
- St. Peter's Health Care Services
- Joe & Carol Shea
- Joseph Turley Hearing Aids and Audiometers

OTHER

- Sage College of Albany for giving us space for HNA's meetings


Olga Tenney

Dear Neighbor, from page 1

I would also like to specifically thank member Olga Tenney for her incredible dedication and hard work to make our annual Fall picnic an overwhelming success. We again set a new record for attendance and fun was had by all.

See you at the November 16 meeting! And if we don't — Happy Holidays!

Craig Waltz



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~ New Fall Hours ~

Call for Nominations for HNA Board

HNA members will elect a new Board of Directors at the January 18 meeting. Nominations will be accepted prior to the November 16 meeting; nominations from the floor will also be accepted that evening. The following positions are open: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications and Membership.

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else and are unable to attend the November meeting, send the name of your nominee (with his/her permission) along with his/her/your contact information to hna@hnaalbany.com.

The Muddy Cup Coffee House opens next to Madison Theater

The Muddy Cup at 1038 Madison Avenue is a new coffee house next to the Madison Movie Theater, across the street from the College of St. Rose. Recently opened in September, they offer refreshments as well as a place to go to share your art and voice your opinions on life and the world.

The refreshments are unlimited: over 40 flavors of coffee, 16 flavors of tea, 14 of hot chocolate, 30 sodas, shakes and smoothies, and a wide variety of baked goods and desserts.

Space is available to anyone who wants to share their craft – whether you are a singer, writer, musician, sculptor or poet. They have hosted book club meetings and knitting groups. Even some St. Rose professors have been known to hold small classes in this comfortable coffee house setting, which is equipped with free wireless Internet access. The Muddy Cup will soon be offering open-mike nights on Mondays.

The Muddy Cup opens at 6 a.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. on the weekends. They close at midnight on Sunday through Thursday and at 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Visit their website, www.muddycup.com or call them at 320-8503 for more information. Better yet, after a movie, stop by for a muddy cup of coffee!

Cyra Nealon


Ragonese Italian Imports: A Traditional Italian Deli

Ragonese Imports is helping to keep the Italian character of our neighborhood alive. It's a traditional family-run deli located in the heart of the Helderberg neighborhood. The store features Boar's Head deli meats, always cut to order, fresh ground sirloin, and homemade Italian sausage—both sweet and hot. Prepared foods include sandwiches, tomato mozzarella salad, antipasto, lasagna, and eggplant parmesan—to name just a few. The aisles of the converted house are stocked with rare imported olive oils, balsamic vinegars, pasta, and other Italian specialties, as well as a small selection of Greek items and even some imported Belgian-style beers. For the holidays, the owners, brothers John and Vince Ragonese, offer Italian holiday cakes and confections, along with the traditional dried salted cod. The catering side of the business makes planning office parties or family gatherings easy.

The Ragonese family is originally from Sicily, but John and Vince grew up around the corner from their store. The brothers bought the store in 1986. Mom Carmela runs the cash register and a niece and nephew help round out the crew. Running a family business takes a lot of time, but also has its rewards according to John, who likes having a job that allows him to combine work and family time. He also enjoys chatting with his regular customers, whom he knows by name.

The store, located at 409 New Scotland Ave., is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Sundays.

Susan VanDeventer




Cheryl A. Moore
Photographer

Camoorephoto.com
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HNA Reporter Deliverers Needed:
Newsletter deliverers and substitutes are needed for Cardinal and South Main. Subs for other streets are also needed. Call Susan at 459-7760 if you can help.



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RANDY K. HAMMER, PASTOR
E-MAIL: 1stcong@nycap.rr.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's a Mom's Club?

Some of you may have noticed this fact at the neighborhood picnic, or on your commute past School 19. Or maybe you realized it on Halloween. Jean Carazza Mahoney and Eileen 'Nina' Roepe noticed it on their daily walks this summer. The fact - there are a lot of kids in this neighborhood. Babies, pre-teens, and all ages in between - the Helderberg neighborhood is overflowing with children. Jean and Nina figured that where there are children, there are moms. And that is who they want to talk to.

They are interested in seeing if any of the moms (or other primary caregivers - moms is just so much easier to say) would like to form a mom's club. They envision helping others, and themselves, form playgroups, support groups, interest groups and/or perhaps a babysitting coop, "whatever folks are interested in," said Nina. Their first step is to gauge interest in this. Toward that end, they ask anyone interested in meeting other moms in the neighborhood to send an email to danjean@nycap.rr.com or beroepe@localnet.com, with the subject line reading "Mom's group." In your email, please include your full name and address, phone number, number and ages of children, and what you hope the mom's group will provide for you. If you don't have internet access, please feel free to call 482-0941 (Nina), but after 4 please - nap time you know.

Online Auction to Benefit Cancer Institute

Robert's Snow, an online auction running from November 6 to December 11, 2005 on Ebay will be auctioning off hand-painted one-of-a-kind snowflakes illustrated by 200 children's book illustrators, including HNA resident Daniel J. Mahoney. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to The Dana Farber Cancer Institute to find a cure for cancer. The website is www.robertssnow.com.

The Opalka Gallery, 140 New Scotland Avenue, is hosting an exhibit of decorative paintings by contemporary Russian artist Alexander Mayorov through December 11. When class is in session, the Gallery is open weekdays 10 am to 4:30 pm; Monday and Thursday evenings, 6-8 pm, and Sundays 12 pm-4 pm.

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HNA's membership year runs January to December. Join or renew now and avoid the rush!

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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