

HNA REPORTER

HELDERBERG NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

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ANNUAL HNA PICNIC!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

6:00 PM

Open Field next to Firehouse on
New Scotland Avenue

Free Food! Free Raffles! 50-50 raffle!

HNA will provide drinks, burgers and hot dogs,
pizza and paper products.

Please bring a food item to share, lawn chairs,
flashlights, and a blanket to sit on.

RAIN DATE: Wednesday, Sept. 27, 5:30 pm

IT'S PICNIC TIME!

The HNA Board of Directors would like to invite our neighbors to the 7th annual neighborhood picnic, this year scheduled for September 20 at 6:00 pm. (Rain date: Wednesday, September 27 at 5:30 pm.) We will gather in the field next to the firehouse on New Scotland Avenue for an evening of food, fun and friendship.

Hot dogs, burgers, pizza and soda will be provided by HNA, with financial support from many of the businesses on New Scotland Avenue. There will be door prizes and a 50-50 raffle. In addition, many of the businesses will offer discount coupons for their merchandise or services. There will also be an opportunity to join or renew your membership in HNA. Stop by the information table as you arrive at the picnic to pick up your raffle ticket and learn more about our neighborhood and our association.

If you wish to bring a food item to share, be sure to label your container, or use disposable ones and bring a serving spoon. Due to the prevalence of food allergies, please list the ingredients in your food item. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket for sitting on the ground. The picnic will end at dusk to allow time for cleanup.

Some of the Albany Police officers who regularly attend our neighborhood meetings hope to be there, and maybe even a police horse or two. And we will have guest "cooks" flipping those burgers.

Last year's event set a record attendance with close to 300 people joining us. This year, to avoid running out of food before everyone eats, the Board would like to request that our guests go through the food line only once.

An event this large requires many hands. People are needed to help set up the food tables and grills, staff the information tables, sell 50-50 raffle tickets, and help with clean-up. If you'd like to volunteer, be at the field between 5:30-5:45 pm to get your assignment.

Finally, be sure to thank the businesses who donated food items, raffle gifts or financial support to our picnic. A list of donors will be available at the information table and in the next issue of the *HNA Reporter*.

DEAR NEIGHBORS:

As we bid farewell to summer and prepare for a return to school days, leaf raking and pumpkin carving, we also enter the homestretch of the annual political season. There are a number of important races up this season, from school board seats to state-wide races to the midterm Congressional elections. They are all dependent on the same thing - your vote. As a neighborhood association, we do not endorse specific people for office. We do, however, encourage you to take an active part in the political process and set a good example for neighbors young and old by taking the time to go to the polls. In addition to the usual Primary and Election Day activities, there will be an opportunity to vote on the bond proposal for the Library's facilities plan in December. The Library plans for a new branch library on New Scotland Avenue are part of this proposal, and a strong show of voter support from our neighborhood is essential to its success.

I also hope that you will join the other members of the executive board and myself at the annual neighborhood picnic on September 20. It is probably the last year we will be holding the event next to the firehouse, as by this time next year the construction of the new Library Branch will hopefully be underway.

See you at the picnic!

Craig Waltz, Chair

CHILDREN'S LITERACY: The 2006 Albany Tulip Queen and Court met with the Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations (CANA) to discuss their Children's Literacy program. The Court is requesting that neighborhood associations help them collect children's books which will be distributed during the Live Smart Festival on October 14, 2006. Any excess books will be donated to Parsons Child and Family Center. **Please bring a children's book to the HNA picnic on September 20 (or rain date of September 27.)**

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 last meeting of 2006 will be held on 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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DO YOU HAVE e-MAIL?

Recently we experienced some technical problems with HNA's e-mail account. In the process of resolving the issues, we lost our e-mail address book. So it will need to be recreated and re-entered.

We'd like everyone who has an e-mail address to send an e-mail to hna@hnaalbany.com and include your name and street address. I will enter your information into the address book, so you can continue to receive updates and announcements from the Board.

Sorry for the inconvenience and thank you for your help.

Debbie Schramek, Communications Chair

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Common Council is seeking nominations for the position of Temporary Member, Board of Assessment Review (15-20 openings.) During 2006-7, the City of Albany is undertaking a city-wide reassessment of all real property. This will result in an additional workload for the current 5 member Board. Additional temporary members will be trained to assist with hearing real property assessment complaints or grievances, and arriving at fair and impartial determinations regarding those complaints. The Board's work will primarily take place between March and June, 2007. This is a full-time temporary job and members will be compensated \$3,000 during their term of appointment.

Applicants are requested to submit a letter of intent describing their qualifications and a current resume. Applicants will be interviewed by a select committee of the Common Council prior to appointment.

Application deadline is the end of September. Send your letter and resume to: Cashawana Parker, Legislative Aide, Albany Common Council, Room 206, City Hall, Albany, NY 12207. For more information, call 434-5087 or e-mail parkerc@ci.albany.ny.us.

HAPY BIRTHDAY, CANA!

The Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations, a federation of more than 20 neighborhood groups, will celebrate 30 years of activism as the "voice of Albany's neighborhoods" on Wednesday, October 4. There will be a public reception at 6 pm and dinner (\$25.00) at 7 pm at The University Club of Albany, 141 Washington Avenue.

CANA meets the first Wednesday of the month (except July and August) at 7 pm at the Albany Public Library on Washington Avenue. All meetings are open to the public.

To learn more about CANA or the dinner, contact Harold Rubin at 434-0855.

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A Shredding Co-op Proposed

After spending years friggng around with personal shredders, and the recent demise of a \$75 shredder after only 3 months of service, I decided there had to be a better way!

I have been looking into getting this mundane task done by a pro. I learned there are two options for having a shredding service shred paper. You can either bring it to them, or you can have them come to a predetermined location to shred, with a shred truck. Bringing the paper to them is the cheapest option.

If several households would be interested in sharing the cost, they could stockpile their paper for shredding until they had enough accumulated to make a shredding service worth the effort.

For an "onsite" shred, there would be a very small time window, 10-15 minutes. If participants were willing to pay more, or if there was great interest, maybe it could be up to an hour. The cost for onsite shredding is \$75.00, for up to 300 pounds.

The other cheaper, and somewhat more flexible option, is to stockpile the paper, until the total was 200 pounds, and then somebody drives it to the shred place. This would cost \$28.00 - \$35.00, depending on the service.

To give you an idea about weight, a box of copy paper weighs about 40 pounds (loosely packed). In terms of garbage bags, 20-25 pounds would be the approximate average in a 13 gallon garbage bag.

Most individuals accumulate paper for shredding at about 10 - 20 pounds a month, about 1/2 - 1 full garbage bag a month. So if we got ten people together, every 2 months, we would pay approximately \$3.00 - \$6.00 each, depending on the quantity, or \$18 - \$36 a year. Onsite "shreds" would cost about twice that. The more parties, the cheaper it would be.

The benefits I see are lower cost, no shredder to purchase and maintain, and much less time spent on the actual process of shredding.

I would be interested in getting a "shred co-op" started, with perhaps a two or three month frequency. I would be willing to coordinate it totally. The cost would be shared by everyone who uses the service. Depending on the interest, that would dictate which option we choose.

Individuals interested in a "shred co-op" can contact me at 438-3833 or by email: friendlygc@juno.com. I live on Grove Avenue.

The only thing I might add is that individuals can try to reduce their junk mail by "opting out." Call 1-888-567-8688 and initiating the process will, in theory, eventually reduce the credit based junk mail load. This service is for individuals only, and is sponsored by the national credit reporting services.

Greg Shields

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day: Albany residents may drop off their hazardous waste materials on October 5 at the City of Albany Landfill, 525 Rapp Road, off Washington Avenue Extension. Products must be in the originally labeled containers only. Containers should be sealed and properly packaged for safe transportation. **You must call 1-800-494-CARE to pre-register. Proof of residency will be required.**

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Now accepting
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The Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project will provide free, private and confidential legal consultations on any topic, at the Albany Public Library Main Branch, 161 Washington Avenue. Topics include divorce, tenants' rights, home-buying, custody, child support, employment and discrimination issues, and bankruptcy and credit counseling. Consultations will be held the first Tuesday evening of every month, by appointment only. To schedule an appointment for October 3, November 7 or December 5, call the Legal Project at 435-1770 or call the Main Library Reference Desk at 427-4303.

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Worship - 10:30 A.M.
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LIBRARY GOES WIRELESS!

Free public wireless Internet access is now available at the Main Library and all 6 branches during open business hours. Library customers may use their own wireless-ready laptop or notebook computers in the public seating areas at each Albany library as well as the auditorium at the main library.

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A brochure explaining the access procedures and policies will be available soon at all public service desks and include basic information on how to connect. Albany Public Library Goes Wireless! was funded with a generous contribution from Verizon.

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The City of Albany is now taking orders for street trees while supplies last. If you are interested in purchasing a tree to be planted in front of your home, please call 434-2489 or visit the website: www.albanyny.org.

The deadline for the fall planting orders is September 15. Trees will be offered again in the spring.

Don't forget to vote!
Primary Day: September 12
Election Day: November 7

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

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: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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