

Meeting Outcomes –March 18, 2015 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM  
HNA Public Neighborhood Meeting

**Speaker of the Month**

**Scott Jarzombek, Executive Director, Albany Public Library**

Scott introduced himself and discussed his history as a librarian and branch manager at Albany Public Library, and then his move away to be the director of other libraries, and then his move back to Albany to accept the Director position at Albany Public Library.

He shared with the group that his vision for Albany Public Library is that the branches will serve as a resource for education, access to technology, a neighborhood center in times of emergency, and a meeting place for people and businesses. The Washington Ave. Branch of Albany Public Library will be opening a space called Albany Made which will focus on teaching people how to make items ranging from sewing projects and woodcrafts to plastic items made with their 3-D printer.

**Contact Information for Scott Jarzombek**

Website: [www.albanypubliclibrary.org](http://www.albanypubliclibrary.org)

Email: [jarzombeks@albanypubliclibrary.org](mailto:jarzombeks@albanypubliclibrary.org)

Phone: (518) 427-4300

**Question and Answer**

- A member asked why there is no scanner available at the library. Scott replied that one branch does have a scanner presently and the library is reviewing their copying contract and will add scanning to all the branches.
- A question was raised about the program which is used to download eBooks. Scott replied that APL currently is a part of a consolidated service which is funded by the Upper Hudson Library System. The program that the public uses to access the service is called Overdrive. All that is required to download a book is a library card. It was also explained that buying a license for an eBook is very similar to buying a physical book in that each license can only be accessed by one person at a time.
- A member raised a question about the library transferring their electronic magazine service from Zinio to Overdrive and the loss of titles occurring in that process. The response was that it was a financial decision, and that the library is working to get the lost titles added to the new service.
- A member expressed a concern about the removal of a book he had written being removed from the library's collection. Mr. Jarzombek replied by explaining the process of 'weeding,' in which books are removed based on their lack of circulation. He also explained that weeded books are sold through a third party, which gives a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the books back to the library. Scott agreed to add the member's book back into the collection of the library.
- A member expressed that they feel that the renovations in the Washington Ave. Branch of the library have greatly improved its appearance and usability.
- A member asked about tutoring for a fee in the library. Scott replied that people often use the library for tutoring and that the branches have rooms specifically for that purpose. He also mentioned that the library has no interaction with the fees people charge for their tutoring services.
- One of the members asked about a listing of students in the community looking to perform community service. Scott agreed to look into working with the Albany Public Schools to create such a list.

- A member asked about the 3-D printer that has been added to the Washington Ave. Branch. Scott replied by discussing Albany Made again. He also added that the library has a partnership with Etsy, which is an internet-based service that will provide online classes to library patrons.
- One of the meeting attendees asked about the inconsistent hours of the library and what could be done to make the library more accessible. Scott replied by sharing information about an initiative to create more consistent open hours for the libraries. This would involve partnering branches to ensure that at least one in each area of the city is open four nights of the week.
- Scott closed his portion of the meeting by sharing that the library is working on a new website to increase the organization's visibility in the community.

## **Community Accountability Program**

Frankie Brito, Albany County District Attorney's Office

Frankie shared information about the Community Accountability Board, which serves as a community alternative for the criminal justice system. Non-violent low-level offenders are given the option in Albany County to participate in the program. They must accept that they committed the crime in question and work with a board of community members to develop a list of community service tasks which must be completed within sixty days. The program has existed for ten years, and participation has increased in the last two years. Currently, the program is only available to adults. Siena College has begun researching the program to determine its efficacy. The program is looking for volunteers to serve on the Community Accountability Board. **Applications for the board are due by Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Contact Information for Community Accountability Program**

Email: Malcolm.Thorpe@albanycounty.com

Phone: (518) 275-4739

## **HNA Board Business**

### **Open Position**

- Secretary. The Secretary shall:
  - Take minutes at each Board and membership meeting and prepare them for distribution to members;
  - Attend board, membership and special event planning meetings, when practicable.

If interested in applying, contact Eric H at [hna@hnaalbany.com](mailto:hna@hnaalbany.com).

## **Events for 2015**

- As in previous years, the HNA will be holding a neighborhood-wide yard sale on June 13<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of June 14<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers for this event. If interested, contact [hna@hnaalbany.com](mailto:hna@hnaalbany.com).
- Spring Spree will not occur this year. HNA members are encouraged to attend Pine Hills Spring Fling instead. **UPDATE:** Pine Hills NA will not be holding a Spring Fling this year.
- The neighborhood picnic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup>, rain date September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Movie nights are scheduled in conjunction with the Pine Hills NA on June 19<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup>, and September 18<sup>th</sup>. HNA is looking for sponsors for the events and for volunteers to setup and tear down in July and September. If you are interested in sponsoring the event or volunteering, contact [hna@hnaalbany.com](mailto:hna@hnaalbany.com).

### **Going Green in 2015 Notice**

Notices outlining the switch from printed newsletters to electronic were printed and delivered to all residences within the boundaries of the neighborhood. The HNA has added many members as a result of these notices. 150 printed copies of the HNA Reporter were distributed to the Xtra Mart, Post Office, and Bach Library. Printed copies will continue to be available at these locations.

### **Updates**

- HNA website has been updated and is accurate. The links currently do not all work, but are being looked at. Many people have signed up for news feeds on the website. You can visit the website at [www.HNAAlbany.com](http://www.HNAAlbany.com)
- If members are interested, they are welcome to attend other neighborhoods' meetings.
- 12 month rolling memberships are currently in effect. A report will be generated monthly to inform members when their membership will expire.

### **HNA Member Announcements and Concerns**

**General Information:** Information about Albany County free cleaning/lead test kits, Tulip Fest Queen nominations, County Sheriff's office Yellow Dot Program was shared with the members.

**Tax-Exempt Status:** HNA does not have a taxpayer identification number, which causes a problem sometimes when receiving donations from larger companies. The association is an incorporated non-profit organization, but the receipts are not great enough to require a TIN, so explaining that to organizations wishing to make donations should suffice. A suggestion was presented to pursue an umbrella TIN through CANA. The board will discuss the issue at their next meeting and report back to the membership.

**Pedestrian Safety:** A member raised concerns about pedestrian safety on Harris Ave. as a result of poor visibility secondary to densely parked cars at the New Scotland Ave. end of the street. The response included that the parking is currently legal and that any illegally parked cars should be reported to Officer Tucker or the Albany Police immediately. If members wish to pursue a change in parking regulations, the issue should be brought to the City.

A member shared that she feels the time allotted to cross streets is currently inadequate. Many other members agreed with the assertion. The police representatives shared that the issue is with the physical systems in place in Albany, and the City's inability to change the timing without changing the hardware.

### **Common Council Update**

**Hon. Judy Doesschate** discussed progress on Re-Zone Albany and shared that there is a website for updates: [www.rezonealbany.com](http://www.rezonealbany.com). She stressed the importance of attending meetings regarding the rezoning process.

There is a push to expand permit parking as a result of the Albany Medical Center expansion. The common council is looking at covering New Scotland Avenue to Quail Street by the new parking permit system.

**Hon. Catherine Fahey** shared information about the summer work program for youth, which has been changed this year to improve the educational impact of the program. Students engaged in the program will be paid for the education time they put in, whereas before they were not. The educational component will also include more career-focused subjects, such as financial literacy, college applications, and résumé development. There will also be more oversight of the work sites to ensure that they meet standards. Approximately 1200 students ages 14-17 participated in the program last year. They are requesting volunteers to sign students up and are also seeking additional worksites. The city was awarded \$5 million by the financial restructuring committee to be allocated as follows: \$1.1 million towards improvements in information technology in city departments, \$3.9 million for new development at the Harriman Office Campus to spur economic development in the city.

### **Community Policing**

**Gary Tucker, neighborhood beat officer**, shared that he has changed his hours to 7:00am – 3:00pm to address concerns about early morning parking issues in the neighborhood. He also appealed to the membership to use him as a first contact for non-emergent issues that arise in the neighborhood during his work hours, and that he has an open-door policy.

- A question was raised about increasing neighborhood engagement unit officers from the current one officer to two in order to cover the evening and morning. Ken Sesock, Sergeant in charge of the unit, explained that the staffing of the NEU is based on the level of need a neighborhood exhibits, and that neighborhood population. As the Helderberg Neighborhood is relatively low-risk, the department can only allocate one officer.

### **Meeting Attendees**

#### **(in order of sign-in)**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Maria Serna                            | Judy Regan           |
| Olga Tenney                            | Len Silverstein      |
| Joe Ingemie                            | Dianne Thomas        |
| Kris Ingemie                           | Deb Schramek         |
| Keith Irish (New Scotland/Woodlawn NA) | Lynne Giminiani      |
| Kathy Mack                             | Paul Rees-Rohrbacher |
| Ned Mack                               | Walter Mastan        |
| Karen Schupack (Albany Art Room)       | Dr. Peter Kitonyi    |
| Grace Farrell                          | Neil O'Connor        |
| Joe Coffey                             | Jeanne Anne Norton   |
| Sharon Coffey                          | Ken McGuinness       |

### **HNA Board Present**

Eric Huntington, Chair  
Tom Rees, Vice Chair  
Patty Pierce, Treasurer

### **Presenters in Attendance**

Hon. Judy Doesschate (Ward 9)  
Hon. Catherine Fahey (Ward 7)  
Officer Gary Tucker (Beat Officer, Helderberg)  
Sergeant Kenneth Seasock (Neighborhood Engagement Unit Supervisor)

Scott Jarzombek (Executive Director, Albany Public Library)  
Frankie Brito (Albany County District Attorney's Office)