



# The HNA Reporter

## Helderberg Neighborhood Association Newsletter March/April 2015

### Neighborhood News

#### March Neighborhood Meeting Summary

We had another nice turnout for our neighborhood meeting on March 18th ! Here are some of the items discussed:

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

Scott shared his vision that the library 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, including a space called Albany Made which will focus on teaching sewing projects and woodcrafts to plastic items made with a 3-D printer. Scott then fielded questions from the group.



#### 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.

**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. 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.

**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). 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 next HNA meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20th at 7pm in the Kahl Campus Center, Room 224, at Sage College. Hope to see you there!

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## **Upcoming Events - Volunteers Needed!**

**Neighborhood Garage Sale:** June 13th (Rain date - June 14th)

**Movie Night #1:** July 17th

**HNA Picnic:** September 13th (Rain Date September 27th)

**Movie Night #2:** September 18th



The movie nights and the picnic will be held at the Sage College campus lawn on the corner of New Scotland and Academy Road.

We need volunteers and sponsors to help make these events successful! If you are interested in sponsoring the event or volunteering, please contact the Helderberg Neighborhood Association.

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## **HNA Financial Report by Patty Pierce, Treasurer**

**March 2015**

### REVENUES

Business Memberships including ads (4)	\$200
Household Memberships (53)	\$265
Donations (1)	\$5
	<b>Total Revenues \$470</b>

## EXPENSES

Constant Contact 1 year license	\$385.56
HNA Reporter/Going Green copies	\$493.34
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$878.90</b>

**KeyBank account balance as of February 28, 2015**      **\$4,883.79**

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## **Featured Neighborhood Business**

### ***Ragonese Imports***

Each newsletter we will feature a different business located in our neighborhood, and in this edition we are proud to highlight **Ragonese Imports!**

This May, Ragonese will mark their 29th year in the Helderberg Neighborhood.



"What makes the Helderberg Neighborhood great is that it has maintained its tight-knit neighborhood feel despite being surrounded by colleges, hospitals, and the other trappings of a city," explained owner Vince Ragonese.

Homemade meatballs, sausages, lasagna, eggplant parm, antipasto, and freshly made sandwiches are just some of the delectable edibles you'll find inside. The warm and friendly staff also offers catering, and you'll find lots of imported delicacies in their grocery area, including Italian meats and cheeses, olive oils, pasta, and sauces. And don't forget about their homemade cannoli!

We are proud to have Ragonese Imports in our neighborhood!

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## **Call for HNA Board Members!**

The HNA Board of Directors is seeking volunteers who love our neighborhood as much as we do! Recently we had to say goodbye to two board members:

- **Margarita Perez, Outreach Director** - Margarita served on the board for a little over a year, and did a great job coordinating last year's Movie Nights. We wish her all the best.
- **Eric Straus, Communications Director** - Eric joined the board in June of 2014, and thanks to his and Margarita's determination not to let the HNA Board become inactive, they were able to keep things

going, including changing our newsletter to the new digital format. We thank Eric for his service.

Along with these two positions, we still have an open Secretary position to fill. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the board so we can keep the organization churning and can produce our various events this year, please contact the Helderberg Neighborhood Association.



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**WANT TO ADVERTISE WITH US or GET INVOLVED?** Email  
HNA@HNAAlbany.com. Website: HNAAlbany.com Phone (662) 598-1462

**What is the Helderberg Neighborhood Association?**

We are a group of homeowners, renters and businesses dedicated to making the Helderberg neighborhood safe and enjoyable. We provide a way for members to share information, discuss issues and improve the neighborhood through actions, projects and events. Become a member and get "plugged in" today!

**What do I get out of being a member of the Association?**

- Emails - About everything - from lost pets to local crimes to fun activities.
- HNA Newsletter - Full of information and important dates!
- Neighborhood events - Garage sale, Movie Nights, Annual Picnic and more!
- Meetings - The membership meets 6 times a year to exchange information!
- Voting Rights - Paid members can vote on HNA actions and elections.\*

\* Must be within neighborhood boundaries to vote.

**How much does membership cost?**

A 12 month membership is only \$5 for a household and just \$10 for businesses (includes a FREE advertisement in the newsletter). Just complete and mail the form below.

**Can I advertise my business in the HNA Newsletter?**

Sure! Our mailing list lets you reach hundreds of people and is a great value. A business membership is \$10 for 12 months and includes a free advertisement! \$95 gets you 7 advertisements plus a 12 month business membership! Just complete and mail the form below.

Yes! 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 (choose one):

- ( ) \$5 Household membership  
( ) \$10 Business membership  
( ) \$95 Business membership & 7 advertisements

Date mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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