



Helderberg Neighborhood Association Newsletter February 2015

Neighborhood News

Great January Neighborhood Meeting

We had a nice turnout for our neighborhood meeting on January 21st! Here are some of the items discussed:



- The annual vote was held for the HNA Board of Directors. The existing board members were re-elected to serve by the members in attendance:

Eric Huntington (Chair)
Eric Straus (Communications Director)
Margarita Perez (Outreach Director)
Thomas Rees (Vice Chair)

- There was a lively discussion about changing the HNA newsletter to an electronic version from a printed version. The Board listened to all sides of this debate and decided to take the following actions to accommodate member concerns:
 - Every business and residence in the neighborhood will receive a printed notification that the newsletter will be distributed

- electronically.
- Newsletters will now be produced every other month, 1-2 weeks after the neighborhood meetings. Newsletters will be distributed via email primarily; a number of printed copies will be available at the following locations:
 - Academy Station Post Office (near corner of Allen and New Scotland)
 - Bach Library
 - Xtra Mart (at Mobil station)
 - The new process will be evaluated after a year to see if adjustments are necessary. The Board very much appreciates everyone's thoughtful and civil input on this.
 - Updated membership procedures: Memberships are 12 months, rolling basis (April-April, January-January, etc.) Members who let their memberships expire (after 2 email reminders) will continue to receive emails and newsletters, but will not be permitted to vote. This will be done to maximize the number of people receiving important information, and to attract advertisers to a growing market.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18th at 7pm in the Kahl Campus Center, Room 224, at Sage College. Hope to see you there!

Welcome Our New Treasurer!

The HNA board is proud to announce that Patty Pierce has joined us as our new Treasurer. Patty has lived in the neighborhood for a long time, and her enthusiasm for it shows. Patty will be responsible for handling the HNA's financial transactions. Please join us in welcoming her aboard!



Albany Common Council Updates

Judy Doesschate (9th Ward) spoke at our last meeting and shared the following:

- Common council approved a citywide reassessment of properties for tax purposes
- 20 red light cameras have been approved for the city; in our neighborhood, there will be a camera at New Scotland and Ontario, and at New Scotland

and Manning.

- Re-Zone Albany has kicked off. Public meetings will be held at all decision points.
- Reassessment of all city properties will be occurring this year, and will affect tax bills beginning in July of 2016.
- Development at New Scotland and Myrtle has raised concerns about pedestrian access. A letter of support for a sidewalk was requested. HNA voted for support of the movement.

Cathy Fahey (7th Ward) also spoke and shared:

- Council passed a referendum to revive the parks commission, goal is to revitalize city parks.
- City employees will have to live within city limits going forward. This will not impact police, firefighters, or sanitation workers.

Albany Police Update

Officer Gary Tucker, the Helderberg Neighborhood's beat officer, spoke at the January meeting and shared:

- Two armed altercations in the neighborhood last December were not random acts, but both involved people who knew one another and were known to police.
- There was a problem rental property with considerable illicit drug activity. Police were only able to move in on the suspects through the vigilance of neighbors, stressing the importance of reporting what you see.
- Members brought concerns about illegal parking near Glendale Ave and New Scotland, stating that cars in no parking zones cause safety concerns for residents of those areas.
 - Officer Tucker shared information on enforcement difficulty, but encouraged residents to call the general APD number to report specific problems, so that parking enforcement can be dispatched.

Featured Neighborhood Business

The Albany Art Room

Each newsletter we will feature a different business located in our neighborhood, and in this edition we are proud to highlight the Albany Art Room! The original Albany Art Room was located on Madison Avenue, just west of Lark Street (where Shogun is now).



Several years later, owner Karen Schupak moved her business to the corner of Harris and New Scotland. Her mission is to provide a safe, supportive environment where people of all ages can express themselves artistically, using a wide variety of materials to create.

There is an hourly rate to use the facility, and formal classes are also taught by local artists. Karen encourages all HNA residents to come by and check out this amazing place!



*409 New Scotland Avenue
482-2358*

**Italian meats, cheeses, bread, homemade meatballs,
sausages, and much more!**

Mon-Fri: 9am-7pm

Sat: 9am - 5pm

Sun: Closed

**WANT TO ADVERTISE WITH US?
CONTACT US TODAY!**

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 on the next page.**

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 on the next page.**



Become a member today!
Complete and mail the form on the next page!

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 & 1 FREE advertisement

\$95 Business membership & 7 advertisements

Date mailed: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-mail: _____

Mail to: **HNA**
 Academy Station
 P.O. Box 8841
 Albany, NY 12208

Contact Us

Email: HNA@HNAalbany.com Website: www.HNAalbany.com

Like "Helderberg Neighborhood Association" on Facebook.com

Postal Service Address:

HNA
Academy Station
P.O. Box 8841
Albany, NY 12208