



## Helderberg Neighborhood Association Newsletter

January/February 2016

### Neighborhood Meeting January 20, 2016

#### **Featured Speaker, Albany Police Chief Brendan Cox**

Chief Cox presented at the January 20th meeting regarding a sexual assault on New Scotland Avenue. The Albany Police have Jose Marlett in custody and he has confessed to the crime.

Around 5 pm January 9th, Jose Marlett approached a woman with a knife, and the attacker demanded money. When she did not have money, he took her ATM card. She did not report the incident immediately. He approached a second woman unloading groceries from her car, abducted her using his knife, and took her back to his apartment. She was held there, sexually assaulted, and raped. She was able to escape, go to a restaurant, and call for help. By that time, the first victim had reported the incident and the police were investigating and had a description of the suspect. Shortly thereafter, they identified the crime scenes, collected evidence, and arrested Jose Marlett.

Chief Cox reassured those in attendance that kind of crime is a very rare occurrence in the City of Albany and that the neighborhood



remains a very safe place to live. He went on to discuss some of Jose Marlett's criminal history, none of which was sexual in nature, so he was not a registered sex offender. Marlett was a recipient of the services of Rehabilitation Support Services (RSS), which is a non-profit agency that addresses the needs of people with psychiatric and substance use disorders. The Albany Police have been discussing collaborating with RSS to develop an awareness of the people that they place in the city. Chief Cox pointed out that it is unfair to

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#### **New Beat Officer**

Officer Gordon McLean is the neighborhood's new beat officer. Learn a little about him.

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#### **2016 Events**

Find out about HNA events you can attend in the coming year!

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#### **Treasurer's Report**

Turn for an in-depth look at the financial standing of the association.

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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

## New Neighborhood Engagement Unit Officer Gordon McLean

In Albany, we are lucky enough to have a Neighborhood Engagement Unit and officers who become a part of our community. The Helderberg Neighborhood was recently assigned a new NEU officer - Gordon McLean. In a sense, he has been a part of the Albany Police Department since he was a child because his father was a Sergeant and he grew up around people in the force. Gordy himself has been with the APD for 22 years. He was a part of the original Community Outreach Program walking beats in Arbor Hill. He has also worked as a School Resource Officer for Albany High School, and has now been with the Neighborhood Engagement Unit for 4 years. He has worked in Arbor Hill, Lark St., Pine

Hills, and now is in our neighborhood. Officer McLean chose to be a part of the NEU because he likes to work with people on a personal basis. He also prefers to be on foot or on a bike rather than being in a car all day. There's a long history here for Officer McLean - he grew up on Betwood St., attended New Scotland Elementary (School 19 at the time) and St. Teresa's School before graduating from Christian Brothers Academy. You'll usually see Officer McLean in the neighborhood around 7:30 to 4:00. His number is 518-573-6450. Say hello if you see him around the neighborhood, and give him a call if you need to.



Albany's Original Little League • Located at the Corner of Partridge & Providence Streets  
PO Box 8423 | Albany, NY 12208

Calling all kids ages 4-12! Come out and PLAY BALL!  
Opening Day: April 18 - Registration Discounts Through March 15  
Online Registration is available at [www.nlalbany.org](http://www.nlalbany.org)

### HNA Board Business

The January 20th meeting was the annual membership meeting, so the entire board was up for election. The current board was re-elected by a majority vote.

A new communications director was nominated to join the board. Alyssa Lotmore is the assistant director for undergraduate social work programs at SUNY Albany. She has done considerable media work, teaches a class on media for advocacy, grew up in this neighborhood, and is now raising her own family in the neighborhood. She was elected to the position by a majority vote.

Sarah Shearer, board secretary, is convening a bylaws committee to review and update the bylaws of the association. She is seeking volunteers to serve on the committee.

### Audience Forum

An audience member shared that she has not yet received her tax bill. There was a glitch in the mailing system which meant that many audience members did not receive their tax bills. If not paid on time, there will still be a late fee. Second notices have been sent to all residents.

Channel Albany is a public access channel which is available to the public. They accept suggestions for programming. Filming occurs

at the Washington Ave Branch of the Albany Public Library.

Albany Community Policing Advisory Council has a forum on February 23rd from 6-8 pm at the Washington Ave. Branch of the Albany Public Library. The forum will focus on the use of body cameras by the APD. There are opportunities to serve on the committee for those interested.

The National Little League of Albany will be starting soon. It is a great opportunity for kids (and parents) to get involved in the community and have some fun.

A neighborhood resident shared that they believe that the first issue raised in the meeting (the sexual assault) should have a separate meeting. Attached to this, there was further discussion of the need to develop an awareness of the group homes in the Helderberg Neighborhood.



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### 2016 Events

<u>HNA Meetings</u>	<u>HNA Picnic</u>	<u>Annual Yard Sale</u>
Wed March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sun Sep 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sat June 11 <sup>th</sup>
Wed May 18 <sup>th</sup>		
Wed July 20 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Movies Under the Stars</u>	<u>National Night Out</u>
Wed Sep 21 <sup>st</sup>	Fri July 15 <sup>th</sup>	August 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Wed Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>	Fri Sep 16 <sup>th</sup>	
		<u>Annual Plant Swap</u>
		Sat April 30 <sup>th</sup>



**241 South Allen Street  
Albany, NY 12208  
518-650-7580**

**For Information or to Apply online,  
visit:  
www.eletheriaalbany.com**

Now accepting applications  
for late fall occupancy

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treat all people with mental illness as though they have committed a crime. As a community, we have to make sure that we do not punish people who are innocent.

Chief Cox opened the floor to questions.

Q: Are the police planning to do anything about the house and people living there?

A: Chief Cox reiterated that there is no indication that anyone else living in the house has committed any crime. That being said, the department is working with RSS to determine who else lives in the house.

Q: Was a reason given for committing the crime in the confession tape?

A: The question is often not asked in an interrogation for various reasons. When it is asked, there frequently is no answer given. In this case, the question was not asked.

Q: How many houses like this are in our neighborhood and are they under any police supervision?

A: People with mental illness are not tracked. Several years ago, group homes in the city were mapped out. There was a discussion about conducting such a survey again.

Q: Were the police aware of Marlett's presence in the city?

A: No. Although he had committed crimes elsewhere, cities do not necessarily communicate with one another.

Q: Did Marlett enter a plea and what sentence is he facing?

A: He pled not guilty and is facing 25 years to life in prison.

#### **Albany High School - February 9th Referendum**

Representatives from the school board came to present the facts about the upcoming referendum, which is regarding a reduced proposal to improve the physical structure of Albany High School.

The first point of the presentation was that the school as it stands is too small for the incoming student population, as estimated by an outside firm based on the student population in lower schools and projected city population.

The presenters shared that this proposal reduced the cost of the renovation by \$16.9 million. The current proposal also increased the proportion of the project that will be funded by the state, thereby reducing the direct tax burden on the residents of the city.

This proposal also includes many improvements to the educational atmosphere of the school. The courses at Abrookin Career and Technical Center will be moved from their current location three blocks from the school to the main campus, ensuring that students can access the courses easily. The construction will include

soundproof walls and a design which ensures that teachers are accessible to students.

This proposal will cost approximately \$28 per year for a \$200,000 home.

The floor was opened to questions

Q: Why does the current building need to be replaced?

A: The building has reached the end of its planned life despite maintenance. Initial construction plans were abandoned partway through the project due to cost overruns, so remaining construction was not ideal.

Q: Why do the students need a pool?

A: The voters already approved the pool reconstruction in May.

Q: What will happen to the Abrookin building?

A: It is not clear yet. That will be decided in the fourth phase of the rebuild.

Q: Why have a vote in the middle of winter?

A: The roof needs to be repaired in the summer, and February was the latest the vote could be held and still meet that deadline.



Historic Preservation & Architectural Services

## HNA Treasury Report

Income:		Expenses:	
Amount	From		
\$902	Donation, Movie Sponsorship	\$770.44	HNA Reporter Copies
\$970	New Memberships	\$725	2 Movie Licenses
\$1060	Business Memberships	\$481.92	Picnic Supplies and Food
<b>\$2932</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$385.56</b>	<b>Constant Contact Subscription</b>
		\$175.86	Yard Sale Signs
		\$82	PO Box Fee
		\$34.78	TU Ad for Yard Sale
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$5713.04</b>	\$29.07	HNA Banner
		\$12.25	TrustCo Bank Checks
		\$9.02	PayPal Fees
		<b>\$2705.90</b>	<b>Total</b>



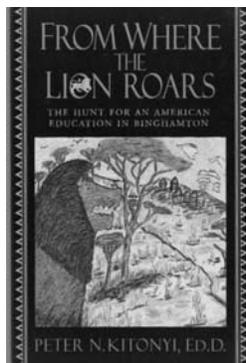
# St Peter's Hospital

ST PETER'S HEALTH PARTNERS

### Call for HNA Committee Members!

The HNA Board of Directors is seeking volunteers who love our neighborhood as much as we do! We're currently looking to staff a committee tasked with reviewing and revising the bylaws. If you have an eagle eye and want to improve the governance of the HNA, then this might be for you!

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the committee, please email us at [hna@hnaalbany.com](mailto:hna@hnaalbany.com)!



From Where the Lion Roars  
by Local Author  
Peter N. Kitonyi, Ed. D.

From Where the Lion Roars: The Hunt for an American Education in Binghamton is an educational and inspirational memoir of a man's journey from Colonial Kenya to the United States by way of a number of influential people and schools. Peter is currently living in Albany. The book is available through Amazon.com.

## 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 6 ads, and includes your 12-month business membership fee! Just complete and mail the form below.

Yes! Please enroll me as a member of the Helderberg Neighborhood Association (HNA).

Enclosed is a ( ) check, made out to HNA, or ( ) cash (do not mail), in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

for a (choose one):

- ( ) \$5 Household membership
- ( ) \$10 Business membership & 1 FREE advertisement
- ( ) \$95 6 advertisements & business membership

Mail to:

HNA

P.O. Box 8841

Albany, NY 12208      Date mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Place "X" here only if you do not have access to the Internet and need delivery of the newsletter.

Helderberg Neighborhood Association | [hna@hnaalbany.com](mailto:hna@hnaalbany.com) | <http://www.hnaalbany.com>