



Helderberg Neighborhood Association Newsletter September/October 2015

Neighborhood News

Annual Picnic Wrap-up A Great Success!



The Helderberg Neighborhood's annual picnic was held on the rain date of September 27 and was enjoyed by all!

First, we would like to thank our tireless solicitor of food and door prizes, Olga Tenney. If you see Olga, please make sure that you extend to her a special thank you.

There were a number of business sponsors who made this event possible, including:

Domino's	Papa John's
The Fountain	Ragonese
Beer Belly	Sainato's
Kuma Ani	Stewart's
Dunkin Donuts	

Door prizes were furnished by:

Allstate - Brian Bussey, Cash Prize	Clas Florist - Gift Certificate
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Dr Seth Kohl, Chiropractor - Cash Prize	One Eleven Boutique - Cash Prize
The Cuttery - hair products	Kuma Ani Restaurant - 2 Gift Certificates
Sheehy Opticians - Free Eye Exam	Ritmos Hair Salon - Free Haircut
Midtown Tap and Tea Room - Gift Certificate	Sake Cafe - Gift Certificate
Anton's Restaurant - Gift Certificate	Isn't It Sweet - 2 boxes Party mix
Olga & Pete Tenney - 3 bottles of wine	Carol & Joe Shea - Cash Prize
B'yond Style Hair Studios - Gift Certificate	Craig & Terry Waltz - bottle of wine
Jean & Jim Merrill - bottle of wine	Charlotte Gray - Cash Prize
Eric Huntington - bottle of wine	Treasure Chest - Gift Certificate
June's Bow House - hair bows	

The event also would have been impossible without the help of all of the other volunteers. Take some time to patronize (and thank) the businesses and the volunteers for being a great part of our neighborhood.

After the setup, people gathered around the grill to enjoy some barbecue favorites and good company. As promised it really was the last gasp of Summer, as the weather has now turned cold. The good news: we have a whole year to look forward to next year's picnic!

Of course, there was one notable absence at the picnic - one of the major players in orchestrating it, our events committee chair Bill Paton. He and his wife had their first baby the day of the picnic. Congratulations to Bill and Luda! Great to have another member of the HNA family.

Movies Under the Stars Complete!

The final Movie Under the Stars was a resounding success! More than 250 people came out to watch Cinderella on the Sage Campus lawn on September 18! The response was so positive to the Movies Under the Stars series that the Helderberg Neighborhood Association board has already committed to being a part of it next year.

Keep your eyes on the HNA website at hnaalbany.com and on the HNA reporter to find out what the movies will be for next year! We at the neighborhood association would also like to take this time to thank all of the volunteers and sponsors who made the setup, cleanup, and pre-movie activities possible. Thanks, and we look forward to another successful series next year.



Helderberg Neighborhood Meeting 9/16



Speakers of the Month

Ginny Farrell & Ron Lesko, Re-Imagining Albany High School

A presentation about the proposal to replace the Albany High School with a combination of



renovations and new construction. The new construction would expand the school by about 50 percent. The total cost of the proposal will be \$196 million. The project will be extended over seven years to maximize state aid and minimize the tax on homeowners. Assuming Basic STAR, the tax increase will be \$42 for a home assessed at \$150,000, \$60 for a home assessed at \$200,000 and \$77 for a home assessed at \$250,000.

The project is needed because the 41-year-old facility is in need of major upgrades. This includes both structural and improvements in the climate control systems. It was also noted that the current school cannot accommodate projected student growth. It will also improve safety by reducing the need for students to cross Washington Avenue.

There was not enough time to address all HNA member questions. However, there will be tours, town hall meetings, and open houses to address community concerns in this process. For more information, go to www.albanyschools.org. City residents will vote on the proposal on **November 3rd**.

Board Business

1600 flyers were distributed at the beginning of September to inform neighbors of the Helderberg Neighborhood Association and of the annual picnic. Eric Huntington noted that the majority of equipment and staff needed for the event was being supplied without charge from Christ's Church Albany, and the partnership with their organization made HNA events possible. See above article for a list of business sponsors and volunteers.

Membership concerns and announcements

A member reported safety concerns based on events resulting from the behavior of a neighbor's dog, and has had difficulty dealing with the city around the matter. Officer Tucker was present at the meeting and will now assist in resolving the situation.

A member inquired whether we have access to the University Heights track and soccer field, which it is believed that the City of Albany pays for. The concern stemmed from an unsafe situation the member encountered on one of the fields and the Pharmacy College Security Guard's response "that nothing could be done". The member is now working with a City Council member to resolve the situation.

A member announced that numerous candidates are running for the City School Board and a forum will be hosted at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Avenue, on Tuesday, **October 20**. This forum is scheduled from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for submission of questions. Additionally, the candidates have been invited to stay after the forum for a meet and greet until 9 p.m.

Financial Report

Patty Pierce presented the financial report for the HNA. As of August 31, 2015: Total Revenues: \$45; Total Expenses: \$163.85; Key Bank account balance: \$5,242.74; PayPal balance: \$38.88

Community Police Update- Gary Tucker

Gary indicated that HNA has had little crime lately, with the exception of a few car larcenies. He reminded all to lock their cars to prevent theft.

Next meeting is November 18, 2015. Audience suggested possible speakers for November meeting: Winner of Albany County Election 8th district.

HNA News

HNA Public Meetings at Sage College rm 224 at 7:00

Wednesday, November 18

Wednesday, January 20

Neighborhood Engagement Unit Officer Tucker Crucial in Dunn Bridge Rescue

Many of you may recall the distressed man threatening to jump from Dunn Memorial Bridge on August 13 of this year. What you may not know is that our own Neighborhood Engagement Unit's Officer Gary Tucker was crucial in talking the man down from the ledge. Officer Tucker worked for hours talking to the man and making him feel comfortable and safe to come down. As we know, the story had a happy ending. We at the HNA would like to commend Officer Tucker for his good work on this, and thank him for all he does for our community.

New HNA Board Secretary

Please join us in welcoming **Sarah Shearer** to the board of the HNA as secretary! She originally hails from Plattsburgh, but has been living in Albany since 2006. She moved to the neighborhood in 2010 and recently bought a house. Putting down roots and graduating from school made her decide it was time to get out, be a part of the association, and meet her neighbors. Be sure to wish her a warm welcome when you meet her at our next meeting!

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 Albany Art Room didn't start in the Helderberg Neighborhood, but owner Karen Schupack is glad that's where she ended up. She started the business on Madison Avenue in 2008, but realized that location was unsustainable. After searching for the perfect commercial space for 2 years, she finally saw the building at 350 New Scotland Avenue go up for sale. Karen says that she immediately "knew it was the right building and neighborhood to realize my long-term dreams."

Since resettling the business in the Helderberg Neighborhood, she has continued driving towards her long-term dream for the Albany Art Room, which is to create a building and yard that invite creativity and inspire people to create their own art in



a safe, open, and instructive environment.

The Albany Art Room offers a wide range of services to its customers. There is a retail

store which sells art supplies for kids and adults, art kits and gifts for kids, and projects that you can complete either at the Art Room or at home. They also have a main studio which is open when they are (M-Th 9-11, 4-6, Sat 10-4, and Sun 10-1) which is available for people to use to drop in and create. There is also a classroom where instructional sessions are held (check www.albanyartroom.com for listings). Upstairs, Karen has set up pottery studios - a hand building room, a wheel room, and a glazing room, all of which feed into her 2 kilns. Pottery open studio is available on weekends.

Karen welcomes everyone in the neighborhood to stop in and look around the shop any

time they are open or to check out their website at www.albanyartroom.com.

She says that everyone has been welcoming and positive about her store since its inception and that she is thankful that she landed here. I say that we are thankful we get to have a great business like the Albany Art Room as part of our neighborhood.

Call for HNA Board Members!

The HNA Board of Directors is seeking volunteers who love our neighborhood as much as we do! We're currently looking to fill two vacant positions:

Communications Director - Handy with emails and newsletters? Like to keep your Facebook account up-to-date? You're the one we're looking for!

Outreach Coordinator - Would you describe yourself as someone who likes to plan events and work with area businesses to make things happen? Apply!

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the board, please email us at hna@hnaalbany.com or call (662) 598-1462.



Rob Field

389-2886

Rob@RobFieldinsurance.com



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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 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 7 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 |
(662) 598-1462 | <http://www.hnaalbany.com>