

M-C News

A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-CAMBRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
AND THE LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Vol. 19, No. 3

www.mcna.org

September, 2010

Annual meeting focuses on M-C resources

About 60 MCNA members visited a variety of displays featuring unique resources in M-C during the association's annual meeting held May 19.

Representatives from the City of Cambridge Library, CCTV, the Harvard Museums, the Longfellow Neighborhood Council, the War Memorial Recreation Center and other local organizations--including DPW staff offering composting tips--were on hand to share information about their services and offerings.

The event provided an opportunity to explore the rich resources located right in the neighborhood and an opportunity to meet new neighbors.

The evening wrapped up with a business meeting, including a summary of 2009-2010 activities by MCNA President Joan Pickett, a Treasurer's Report by Frankie Lieberman, and election of the 2010-2011 Coordinating Committee.

Looking back: A successful year

Highlights of the past year included a very successful newly formatted Candidates Night where residents were able to communicate directly with the candidates instead of hearing standard stump speeches; the coordination and delivery of over 1,000 "Living Well" booklets to M-C residents age 55 and older; a successful yard sale benefit-

ting Food for Free, and a climate emergency brainstorming session providing input into the larger citywide effort.

A special thanks to Darwin's Ltd. for donating a \$25 gift certificate and to the Broadway Market for generously supplying a fresh fruit plate. Member attendees were eligible for the gift certificate drawing by listing three topics they want the MCNA to focus on in the coming year. State Representative Alice Wolf drew the winning name, Robert Winters, from those who submitted a list of topics.

The most frequently listed topics were:

- ◆ Protecting and providing adequate green space/open space in MC including Joan Lorentz Park,
 - ◆ Developing a community garden location,
- (Continued on Page 2)*

Buy Stuff, Sell Stuff at MCNA yard sale Sept. 11

The sixth annual MCNA Yard Sale to benefit Food for Free is scheduled for Sept. 11 (rain date Sept. 12) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Judy and Bill Bibbins have again generously offered their parking area at 314 Harvard Street, corner of Hancock and Harvard, for the sale.

All proceeds from the sale (net of minimal expenses) will be donated to Food for Free, a Cambridge-based food bank helping residents get access to healthy produce and baked goods. Last year the MCNA raised over \$500, and we look to beat that amount this year. Please help us hit that goal.

We have lots of very interesting items this year: furniture, toys, kitchen tools and appliances, office paraphernalia, table accessories, items perfect to give as gifts, auto and bike miscellany, and much, much more.

If you have any items in good condition you want to donate, bring them on the morning of the sale. And, if you don't mind some huffing and puffing early in the morning, we could sure use the help setting up! Just call Tuny McMahon at 617-945-4440 to volunteer.

We will also be setting up a donation table for non-perishable food items to be donated to the Margaret Fuller House Food Bank. So, even if you can't find the perfect thing to buy, you can still help out a good cause by bringing a food item. We look forward to seeing you all and hope you drop by to say hello.

Fall MCNA meeting Oct. 21: Charles River front, recycling

Save the date! The fall MCNA Membership Meeting is set for Thursday, October 21 at 7 p.m., at a location to be determined.

The meeting will feature a presentation by Cambridge's Community Development Department on its developing vision for the Cambridge Riverfront, and a question-and-answer session on the upcoming single-stream recycling effort, along with a discussion of important neighborhood issues.

Neighborhood happenings this fall

After you're finished scooping up the bargains at the **MCNA Yard Sale** at 314 Harvard St. on Saturday, Sept. 11, take a quick stroll over to Fayette Park and check out the **Fall 2010 Mid-Cambridge Plant Swap**. The event runs from noon to 2 p.m. at Fayette Park, a tiny cul-de-sac off Fayette Street near Broadway. In case of downpour, rain date for both events is Sunday, Sept. 12.

Bring anything that's growing in too much abundance in your garden. Elegant packaging is not required, but please write down plant names. The organizers expect to have perennials, biennial seedlings, seeds, houseplants, catalogs, pots, and lots of "whatever."

The Somerville Garden Club Plant Sale will be held the following Saturday, Sept. 18, starting at 9 a.m. in Davis Square. Local garden guru Helen Snively reports "They have great stuff at good prices, and lots of advice."

The Second Annual Urban-Ag Fair in Harvard Square will bring to market "some of the most incredible locally grown fruits and vegetables ever seen," according to the organizers of the fair, which is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Mt. Auburn Street/Winthrop Park in Harvard Square.

MCNA agenda for 2010-2011

(Continued from Page 1)

- ◆ Issues related to aging in place/elder issues, and
- ◆ Environmental issues ranging from climate issues to noise and traffic.

The Coordinating Committee will use these suggestions to help set its agenda for 2010-2011. We seek additional input on key neighborhood issues that are important to you and your families. Please feel to e-mail your ideas and suggestions to jpickett@mcna.org.

During the business meeting, the members elected the 2010-2011 Coordinating Committee which included 10 incumbent members: George Bossarte, Fritz Donovan, Elizabeth Gombosi, Debby Knight, Frankie Lieberman, Margaret McMahon, Joan Pickett, John Pitkin, Chris Robinson and David Szlag. Newly elected to the CC was Karen Carmean.

Pickett recognized and thanked outgoing CC member Doane Perry for his valued participation on the Coordinating Committee and for serving as president of the MCNA for four years. In the initial meeting of the Coordinating Committee held in June, officers were elected: Joan Pickett, president; Frankie Lieberman, treasurer; George Bossarte, membership secretary, and Margaret (Tuny) McMahon as recording secretary.

The event also features tips and information on composting, community gardening, rain barrels, and bee-keeping. Local chefs will perform cooking demonstrations, and prizes will be awarded for the tastiest, biggest, most interesting, etc. fruits, vegetables, flowers, baked goods, preserves, beverages, student grower under age 17, and more.

For further information or if you are interested in entering the contest, see details at www.harvardsquare.com. All events are free to the public.

Fall Equinox celebration on the Charles

After one of the hottest summers on record, M-C residents will likely be happy to join the Revels for a free community celebration of the coming of fall on the banks of the Charles River.

On Sunday, Sept. 19, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Revels celebrates the approaching Autumnal Equinox with song at the 7th annual Revels RiverSing. Thousands will gather at twilight near the Weeks Footbridge in Cambridge by the Charles River to celebrate the turning of the seasons with familiar, rousing songs for all to sing.

Fall classes begin Sept. 13 at Longfellow Community School

The Longfellow Community Council's 2010 fall program kicks off September 13 with yoga for adults and private music lessons for adults and children.

Offerings include private lessons in piano, voice, flute, recorder, and recorder ensemble. Lessons are held Monday through Friday from 2:30 to 7 p.m. The fee is \$255 for 14 private 30-minute lessons. Please call the Council at 617-349-6260 to arrange a time.

The Yoga for Adults class with instructor Melinda Bruno will be held on Thursdays from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. The fee is \$140 for the semester.

All classes begin Sept. 13 and are held in the Council offices in the former Longfellow School building, 359 Broadway, Cambridge.

"Evenings with Longfellow" will be held at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. These evenings are a series of presentations on a variety of subjects related to the neighborhood. Contact the council for specific events.

Also on tap is the annual Halloween Party in Hancock Park on October 31, featuring face painting and the popular Jenny the Juggler.

After six years and much effort, the Council expects to publish an Oral History of our neighborhood this fall. Look for the announcement.

To register for classes or for more information, contact Penelope Kleespies, director, at 617-349-6260, or send an e-mail to pkleespies@cambridgema.gov.

Ice Cream Social: A summer highlight draws big crowd

Perfect weather prevailed at the association's annual Ice Cream Social on June 23, as the hot days of summer whet appetites and drew a large crowd to the event.

This was our first year back in the Joan Lorentz Park, which had been closed for the main library construction.

Pictured at right are Gus Rancatore of Amory Street, owner of Toscanini's Ice Cream who once again generously donated the ice cream for the event, and Karen Carmean, the newest member of the MCNA Coordinating Committee

The photo was taken by past MCNA president Doane Perry.



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M-C Updates

Single Stream recycling to begin October 25 in Cambridge

Single Stream recycling means that residents can mix all types of recyclables in one container, making it hopefully more convenient to recycle.

New items will be allowed to be recycled. Clean newspapers, bottles, cans and cardboard can be mixed in one container, and pizza boxes and large plastics have been added to the list of recyclable items. The switch is anticipated to increase recycling by 10 percent.

For more information, be sure to attend the MCNA fall neighborhood meeting Oct. 21. In the meantime, please e-mail recycle@cambridgema.gov or call Public Works at 617-349-4866.

Harvard GSD buys Jesuit-owned house

It was announced over the summer that the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) is pursuing the purchase of three wood-frame buildings that are part of a collection of properties being sold by the Society of Jesus of New England.

The properties, located at 20 Sumner Road and 40 and 42 Kirkland Street, are adjacent to the GSD campus. The properties are currently utilized for institutional purposes (not residential) and it is the intention of the GSD to maintain them as such. The sale was expected to be completed by the end of August or early September.

Long-time residents may remember Harvard's commitment not to expand beyond a boundary around the existing campus known as the "red line."

While that commitment expired years ago, these

properties are inside that boundary and in keeping with that commitment.

Cambridge Health Alliance seeks a partner or buyer

The financially struggling Cambridge Health Alliance, with its flagship hospital Cambridge Hospital, has announced it is looking for a buyer or a strategic partner. The hope is that by partnering with or being bought by a stronger, larger system, it will be better positioned to withstand potential changes in the healthcare environment due to healthcare reform and preserve its mission.

A partnership could give Cambridge Health Alliance patients access to a wider range of doctors and medical services. Given the significant physical presence of CHA in M-C, we will be closely watching these developments and updating residents.

Shady Hill green to be a public park

It seems like the Shady Hill controversy has finally come to an end. While details of the transaction were not in hand at the time of this report, the center green at Shady Hill Square has finally been purchased from the potential developer. Preservation restrictions have already been signed and the green will be a Cambridge public park, protecting a historically significant space for all Cambridge residents to enjoy.

"The efforts and support of the MCNA made the preservation of Shady Hill Square possible. No infill here!" commented Shady Hill residents Merav and Hannah Gold.

Neighborhood starts response to climate emergency

More and more people in Mid-Cambridge and around the world are coming to realize that we are in a climate emergency. Scientists have not yet pronounced whether the record heat this summer in over dozen countries, the wildfires in Russia, floods in Pakistan and Tennessee, or our local downpours and hot spells are signs of climate change, but they have warned that these are exactly the kinds of events we must expect to see and experience much more frequently as global warming rises in the coming years.

In order to stop contributing to further warming and dangerously extreme weather events, local greenhouse gas emissions will have to be reduced by 70 percent or more. This is a daunting challenge with no simple solution.

However, the 2009-2010 Cambridge Climate Congress of 100 delegates from across the city, including several from Mid-Cambridge, proposed a practical framework for average citizens to respond to the emergency. It begins with:

- The things we can control as individuals in our homes and outside to reduce our use of fossil fuels, or “carbon footprints,” and
- Petitioning officials at all levels for policy changes that only they can make. Even our city government, which is already doing a lot, needs to do more.
- Neighborhood associations and other local organizations have a key role to play in spreading awareness of the climate emergency and creating community-level responses.

The MCNA Yard Sale on Sept. 11 is a modest example of meaningful community-level response. Almost every item that finds a new home rather than going to a landfill saves the greenhouse gas emissions and other resources needed to make and ship a new one, usually from far away. A second good example on the same date is the Neighborhood Plant Swap. Plants grown right here need no shipping, and every plant takes a tiny amount of carbon out of the air.

NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

MCNA Yard Sale, Saturday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 314 Harvard Street, corner of Harvard and Hancock. Rain date Sunday, Sept. 12, same time. See Page 1 for details.

Mid-Cambridge Plant Swap, Saturday, Sept. 11, 12 noon to 2 p.m., Fayette Park. Rain date: Sunday, Details, Page 3.

Harvard Square Agricultural fair, Sunday, Sept. 19, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Harvard Square.

RiverSing Fall Equinox celebration and sing-along, Sunday, Sept. 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Weeks Footbridge, Charles River.

MCNA Fall Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m., place TBA. Save the date!

The **M-C News** is published by the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association and the Longfellow Neighborhood Council. *Editor:* Paula Lovejoy. *Reporters:* Joan Pickett, John Pitkin, Tuny McMahon, Helen Snively, George Bossarte. The MCNA does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

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