

JAMAICA HILLS ASSOCIATION Community News Jan 08

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DCR Public Safety Meeting

Greater Boston Relay for Life

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Showa Boston

Larz Anderson Park

Dexter School

february

4 DCR Public Safety Mtg
Curtis Hall 6 p – 8 p

5 Presidential Primary
Manning School 7 a – 8 p

7 BPD - Community Mtg
Curtis Hall 7 p

11 Larz Anderson Park
Design Review
350 Washington Street
Brookline 5:30 p – 6:30 p

13 Relay for Life Meeting
Doyle's Cafe 6.30 p

13 JHA Social/Meeting
Springhouse 7 p

16 Skating Party (free)
Larz Anderson 6:45 – 7:45 p

27 Parkside Drive
Group Home Meeting
Springhouse 7 p – 8:30 p

■ **We're looking for creative volunteers to help us plan social events. Contact us!**

JHA Community Connection Service

Connect with Neighbors Who Share Your Interests

Skipping the gym on days that end in "y"? Want to form a ride pool with neighbors to stop the excuses? • Fantasizing about Fritillaria? Get your hands dirty with fellow garden lovers. • Knitting project hit a snag? Wish you could get together with other fiber fanatics, or just ask someone how to pick up that dropped stitch?

Practice your Mandarin, connect with other parents of toddlers, share your love of mystery novels.... You figure there must be others like you right around the corner, but just how do you get connected? Well, we'd love to play neighborhood matchmaker. If you are looking for neighbors who share your interests, you can reach out in two ways:

Join our online Discussion Forum. (It's free, it's for Moss Hill, and it's password-protected.) Or contact the JHA Advocate and we'll help connect folks who write in with similar requests. We introduced this feature to subscribers of our Community eNews last month just to gauge reaction, and we've received some terrific responses:

▪ Susan Spector would love to meet other quilters. Contact Susan at teta524@aol.com or 617-524-1099.

Contact the advocate@jamaicahills.org to respond to these requests:

▪ Any experienced knitters willing to teach a beginner? How about fellow knitters who would like to get together to share progress on projects?

▪ A mom on Mossdale Road notes that there aren't many young children in her immediate area. She's wondering if there are any parent groups in Moss Hill interested in play dates or other activities.

▪ The JHA is asking for help, too. Would parents be willing to volunteer to help us plan an event for kids this spring or next fall? Contact us and we'll host the planning meeting!

We can all do a bit more socializing in the winter, so give this feature a try!

Moss Hill Seniors: Let's Start a Group!

As the feature above shows, the JHA is looking for new ways to facilitate social interaction. Moss Hill is a friendly neighborhood, but unless you jog or walk your dog, it's not easy to meet new people in our community. Our elderly neighbors are especially aware of this. This month's **Tell Us What You Think** encourages senior residents to consider forming a JHA Seniors Group. Your collective voice will help us serve you better---and you'll meet some great people, too!

What matters to you? Suggest topics for:

- Workshops on elder care issues
- Social programming during the day
- Events to meet your peers
- Organizing local trips

We also encourage folks who are interested in seniors' issues to participate to help us act upon the great ideas we know we'll get. We value all our neighbors and the ways you enrich our community. You've got something valuable to say, and we want to hear it!

TellUsWhatYouThink

To contact the JHA Board:

1. Email the JHA Advocate
advocate@jamaicahills.org
2. Send the JHA a letter
PO box 300392, JP 02130

To contact the Board *and* talk with other neighbors:

3. Join the JHA Discussion Forum
www.jamaicahills.org
4. Attend JHA meetings

TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATES

Public Safety Meeting for Jamaicaaway, Arborway, and Centre Street Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez hosts another public safety meeting with DCR, State Police and Boston Police on **February 4** from 6 pm to 8 pm at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street. (Parking is limited, so consider carpooling.) To make time for everyone's concerns, please submit comments and suggestions for Rep. Sánchez ahead of time to advocate@jamaicahills.org. The JHA looks forward to seeing you there!

Avon-Pond Intersection Neighbors have complained to the JHA that visibility at the Avon and Pond intersection is limited by the Armenian Nursing Home's fence at this corner. The JHA readily agreed and contacted the Armenian Home to address the problem. We gratefully acknowledge how promptly the Home had trees and shrubs cut back; however, the position of the fence itself limits drivers' view of Pond Street. We've asked the Home to consider repositioning the fence to increase the sight distance. We look forward to cooperating with the Armenian Home to improve this hazardous intersection.

Faulkner Employee Parking Board members **John Lovett, Pat Newman, and Dottie Farrell** are working with Faulkner officials to resolve the problem of employees' parking on Moss Hill streets near the hospital. We can assure you that Faulkner's president, David Trull, is directly dealing with Faulkner employees who are repeat offenders. Of course, our work is not over until conditions for residents on Whitcomb, Lila, and Westchester are definitively improved; we will keep you informed our progress as we continue to work with Faulkner Hospital.

Centre Street Snow Clearing According to an agreement between the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Mass Highway Department, MHD plows Centre Street and DCR clears snow from Centre Street sidewalks. Note that clearing Centre Street sidewalks is a Level 3 priority, which means that machines might not arrive for 12 hours. During that time, DCR still expects property owners to comply with the City's snow clearing policy. However, the JHA has asked DCR to improve their response time during severe snowstorms when sidewalks get re-covered with snow from plows faster than property owners can keep up with. During our last storm, residents gratefully reported an improvement on most (though not all) Centre Street sidewalks.

Speeding on Pond Street Boston Police have been seen pulling over speeders on Pond Street. A big thank you to Officer Michael Santry and the BPD for working with the community to improve traffic safety. Neighbors: Remember to reduce your speed on side streets, as well.

ZONING NEWS

Showa Dormitory Porch Project At the December 12 JHA meeting, Showa presented its proposal to enclose ten dormitory porches, the first amendment to its Master Plan. Construction plans in 2008 are intended to enclose just three of these porches. The additional thirty beds replace those in Wing 1, which Showa turned over to its tenant, the British School, for junior and seniors boarding during the week. The project will not be visible to abutters nor will it affect traffic on Pond: BSB boarders are not permitted to use cars during their stay. The JHA recommended to the BRA not to oppose the project under the condition that Showa and BSB conduct a Traffic Access Study to consider ways to mitigate congestion at the entrance of the campus. The JHA appreciates Showa's and BSB's willingness to work our neighborhood to improve traffic conditions.

Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life™ is a 24-hour event designed to celebrate those who have survived cancer, remember those who have lost their struggle, and support the fight against this disease. The Greater Boston Relay for Life 2008 is scheduled to take place in Jamaica Plain this June and needs volunteers: Attend the kick-off celebration February 13 at 6:30 pm at Doyle's Café, 3484 Washington Street, JP. RSVP to ACS's **Amanda Starkel** at 781.314.2623 or amanda.starkel@cancer.org.

The Relay for Life is a 24-hour walk/jog/run team-based baton-passing relay to raise funds for Cancer Research. As one volunteer put it, the significance of the 24-hour event highlights the reality that cancer never sleeps. The event also encourages us not to stop fighting back. Our friend, fellow JHA Board Member, and JP Neighborhood Council rep **Andrea Howley** is on this year's event Planning Committee. Contact Andrea at andhow33@comcast.net or visit www.RelayForLife.org.

- **Parkside Drive Group Home** Since last November, Vinfen, a care provider for developmentally challenged individuals, has leased 12 Parkside Drive for use as a group home. Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez and the JHA have arranged for residents to meet with representatives from Vinfen and the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation on **February 27** at 7 pm at Springhouse, 44 Allandale Road, to learn more about the group home and our new neighbors.
- **Dexter School** Dexter in Brookline is reapplying for a permit, which had expired, to construct a fifth floor on its mid-rise building. The proposed project exceeds the maximum height allowed (35 feet) and therefore requires a special permit. The existing fourth floor and, if approved, new fifth floor would make the building 57.5 feet high. The JHA Zoning Committee recommends to Brookline's Board of Appeal not to oppose the project only under the condition that the school work with the JHA and residents to reduce congestion generated by its commuters and to deal with bus drivers who exceed speed limits.
- **Larz Anderson Park** Brookline Parks and Recreation has scheduled a public meeting **February 11** at 350 Washington Street at 5:30 pm to consider converting Avon-Pond open space to a soccer field and to use Avon Street for service trucks entering the Park. Because of safety issues the JHA recommended to oppose the proposals. See **Zoning Notices** on the JHA website for background information and *JP Gazette* articles.
- **Volunteer Opportunity** Our neighbors at Springhouse love to do lunch! A former president of Colby College and current Springhouse resident would love to get together with you for lunch nearby. We promise you will enjoy your time with this special gentleman. Contact Nadine Krasnow at nkrasnow@springhouseinfo.org.
- **Vote February 5 and** while you're at the polls stop by the JHA table: JHA volunteers want to meet members of our community and hear your suggestions!