

JAMAICA HILLS ASSOCIATION

Community News Oct 10

JHA Membership Drive 2011

JHA Officers and Board of Directors 2010 - 2011

Neighborhood Design Overlay District for Jamaica Hills

Jamaica Pond Access Enhancements

Asian-Longed Horn Beetle: Walk and Workshop

.....
november

2 VOTE State Election
Manning School 7 a - 8 p

8 Public Meeting
Jamaica Pond Access Enhancements
Hunnewell Building
125 Arborway 7 p

10 JHA Social/Meeting
Springhouse 7 p

13 Asian Long-Horned Beetle
Walk and Workshop
Olmsted Park 10 a

16 VOTE Special Election
Manning School 7 a - 8 p

▪ JHA Membership Form enclosed

▪ Sign up for the JHA email list for Crimewatch alerts, event reminders, and other timely information. Email advocate@jamaicahills.org.

JHA Membership Drive Begins November 2

Kindly remember to pay your 2011 JHA dues when you vote at the Manning School on November 2. Thanks for your support!

Please be sure to visit JHA volunteers at our table at the polls. Dues for the upcoming year are still \$25 per household, or \$10 if the head of household is at least age 65. A membership form is conveniently enclosed.

The JHA is a nonpartisan neighborhood group that depends solely on membership dues to maintain its outreach efforts. We are committed to working with our community to keep our neighborhood safe, connected, and informed. Some ways your support helps us continue to serve our community:

Our **70th Anniversary Party** last May, chaired by indefatigable volunteers Tanya Contos and Mike and Trudy McGuire, was one of our best-attended events ever. And we look forward to planning more creative social events to bring neighbors together...**Neighborhood Crimewatch network** and **safety alerts**, including the enclosed JHA Crimewatch Guide and BPD Safety Tips...**Community Connection** Interested in meeting up with other Moss Hill residents who share your interests? Drop us a line and we'll share your inquiry with the community to help you get connected...**Community eNews** and **Newsletters, Monthly Meetings** and **Public Forums**...

Visit our website www.jamaicahills.org and contact the **JHA Advocate** at advocate@jamaicahills.org to stay connected and let us know what's on your mind.

Your Vote
Is Your Voice

November 2

State Election
Offices on the Ballot
Questions 1, 2, 3
Visit www.sec.state.ma.us

November 16

Special Election District 6
Boston City Council Seat
Matt O'Malley v. Jim Hennigan

JHA Officers and Board Members 2010 – 2011

At its Annual Meeting in May, the JHA general membership elected its Board of Directors for the 2010-2011 term. The following JHA officers were nominated and elected at the September board meeting. The first page of the Red Book neighborhood directory lists contact information for individual board members. Email the board at advocate@jamaicahills.org.

President Polly Selkoe, Moss Hill Road

Vice-President Celeste Walker, Centre Street

Treasurer Anne Connolly, Westchester Road

Secretary Maria Morelli, Rockwood Terrace

Corresponding Secretary Nick Forbes, Rambler Road

Directors

Shelley Brauer, Calvin Road

Joanne Bucilla, Pond Street

Julia Clarke, Louder's Lane

Dorothy Farrell, Pond Street

James Greene, Moss Hill Road

Donald Haber, Avon Street

Andrea Howley, Pond Street

Richard Iannella, Hillcroft Road

Anne Katsiroubas, Calvin Road

Kevin Leary, Woodland Road

Elena Loukas, Pond Circle

John Lovett, Westchester Road

Virginia Marcotte, Hopkins Road

Michael McGuire, Hopkins Road

Patricia Newman, Lila Road

Kerri Schmidt, Westchester Road

Peter Senopoulos, Hopkins Road

Susan White, Rockwood Street

Neighborhood Design Overlay District Approved for Jamaica Hills

At its September meeting, the Boston Zoning Commission voted to approve the proposal to make Jamaica Hills a Neighborhood Design Overlay District (NDOD). The proposal for this zoning amendment was initiated by Louder's Lane resident Peter Welsh. Last spring, the JHA held two public meetings with Boston Redevelopment Authority staff and Colleen Keller of the Mayor's Office to learn more about the NDOD process and the recommendation of the BRA and the Boston Landmarks Commission.

Under an NDOD, proposed as-of-right projects (that is, those not in violation of the Zoning Code) that meet the criteria below will undergo a review by the BRA. These criteria can be found in the Zoning Code, Article 80 Sec. E-2 "Applicability of Small Project Review." (iii) "Exterior Alterations in Neighborhood Design Overlay Districts. Within any Neighborhood Design Overlay District (NDOD), any of the following Proposed Projects and exterior alterations, provided that such Proposed Project or exterior alteration is visible from a public street or public open space:

(1) Any exterior alteration changing the roof shape, cornice line, Street Wall height, or building height of an existing building;

(2) Any Proposed Project for the erection or extension of a building with a gross floor area of three hundred (300) or more square feet; and

(3) Any exterior alteration to change the building massing or the size or location of door or window openings, where such alteration affects three hundred (300) or more square feet of exterior wall area, or a smaller exterior wall area if expressly provided in the underlying zoning."

Source: www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org

Jamaica Hills properties already within a Conservation Protection Subdistrict, Greenbelt Protection Overlay District, and Institutional Master Plan are excluded from the NDOD because they currently undergo a BRA design review.

The JHA currently provides Zoning Procedures on its website that clarify the City's permitting and zoning appeals process for our neighborhood. In the next few months, the JHA will update this information to communicate the NDOD process as governed by the Zoning Code to help guide residents.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the NDOD process or your own upcoming project, please contact BRA Senior Architect Michael Cannizzo at Michael.Cannizzo.BRA@cityofboston.gov or 617-918-4386, or the JHA Zoning Committee at zoning@jamaicahills.org.

Update on Jamaica Pond Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Enhancements and Eliot Street Crossing Final design and construction plans for the Eliot Street Crossing will be presented, and an update on the two Parkman Drive crossings.

Time / Date: November 8 from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Place: Arnold Arboretum Visitors Center, 125 Arborway
Contact: DCR.Updates@state.ma.us or 617-626-4974

Asian Long-horned Beetles: Walk and Workshop Join Ray Oladapo-Johnson of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy in collaboration with Dr. Jennifer Forman Orth of the Mass Department of Agriculture in a walking workshop around the woodlands of Olmsted Park to look for signs of ALB. Dress warmly and bring your binoculars.

Date / Time: November 13 at 10:00 am
Place: Olmsted Park
RSVP volunteer@emeraldnecklace.org

Jamaica Hills Association Crimewatch Guide

Take steps to prevent crime

- Install a security alarm and motion detectors.
- Lock doors and windows of your home and cars.
- Do not leave valuables in your car or trunk. Do not leave valuables in your home visible to passersby.
- Ask contractors to lock up ladders when not in use.
- Follow the BPD's safety tips for burglar-proofing your home.*
- Volunteer to become a street captain if your block doesn't have one:
advocate@jamaicahills.org
- Schedule a crimewatch meeting with your neighbors once a year.
- Get to know your neighbors. Look out for your neighbors.
- Call 9-1-1 immediately if you notice suspicious activity.

Report crimes and suspicious activity

1. Call 9-1-1 immediately.
2. Alert your immediate neighbors promptly.
3. Contact your street captain promptly.
> Contact the JHA **advocate@jamaicahills.org** if you don't know who your street captain is, or if your block doesn't have a street captain.

Resources for Jamaica Hills street captains

When you are contacted about a crime on your block

1. Confirm that your neighbor has called the police.
2. Confirm police reports by contacting BPD Community Service Office.
3. Get precise and factual information: Time and location, description of crime or suspicious activity, description of individuals, cars, license plate numbers observed
4. Promptly send confirmed reports to:
 - Neighbors on your list
 - Other street captains for distribution
 - The JHA Advocate

To plan and run a crimewatch meeting

1. Contact BPD Neighborhood Crimewatch. Ask that a District E13 police officer attend your meeting.
2. Distribute a meeting notice to your neighbors.*
3. At the meeting, collect phone numbers and email addresses of the neighbors on your block.
4. Pass out crime prevention guidelines.* Review police reports and crime reporting steps.
5. Get to know your neighbors!

- Police 9-1-1
- BPD E13 Detectives
617-343-5628
- BPD Community Service Office
617-343-5624
- BPD Crimewatch
617-343-4345
- My street captain

- JHA Advocate
advocate@jamaicahills.org
- Resources
www.jamaicahills.org
www.bostoncrimewatch.com
www.E13BPD.com

How to Call the Police

1. Dial 9-1-1.
2. State your name and location.
3. Describe the suspicious activity or the crime. Observe the direction in which the alleged criminals are traveling, including car model and license plate number.
4. Be precise and factual: Describe what you observed. Do not make speculations.

From a cell phone you have two phone-number options:

1. Calling 9-1-1 takes you to the State Police. Ask to be transferred to the Boston Police.
2. Calling 617-343-4911 directs you to the Boston Police.

Location Tracking If your cell phone carrier enables a Global Positioning System (GPS), calling 9-1-1 from a cell phone may enable the police to track your location. Confirm GPS functionality with your carrier. GPS is not available if you dial 617-343-4911 on your cell phone. GPS is available if you call from a landline phone. Always dial 9-1-1 from a landline phone.

*A BPD safety guide is on the other side of this page and on our website: **www.jamaicahills.org**. Select **Community Action** and then **Crimewatch**. Contact **advocate@jamaicahills.org** for templates for crimewatch meeting notices.

Keeping Your Home Safe from Break-Ins ▪ Prepared by BPD Neighborhood Crime Watch Unit

DOORS AND WINDOWS

Figure out your weak spots. Imagine you are locked out of your house and absolutely have to get back in because you think you left the stove on. How would you break into your house? That area is probably a weak spot.

Doors

Install peepholes. Replace weak doors, reglue wooden panels, or attach metal plate or half-inch plywood liner to back. Or add decorative grillwork. If there is glass within 40 inches of the door, you can: cover glass with polycarbonate plastic sheet, add decorative grill or grill door, or replaced with solid-core door. Don't forget basement or porch doors.

Locks

Install good deadbolt locks with extra-long screws (2-1/2") on all doors (don't forget basement or porch doors). The bolt should extend at least 1 to 1-1/2" into the striker plate. If glass is within 40 inches of the lock, a double-cylinder deadbolt (keys for both sides) should be installed (but be sure to keep key readily available so you can exit quickly, if necessary). Or, the glass should be reinforced with lexan (poly-carbonate plastic sheet). With this treatment, the criminal can't break the glass, reach in and unlock the door. Replace weak strike plate with a high-security, heavy-duty one. Don't forget to have good locks installed on back, porch, and basement doors.

Windows

Accessible double-hung windows can easily be pried open with a screwdriver. Storm windows do not add security. Crescent latch screws, can be popped out. Reinforce any accessible, wooden-double-sash windows by pinning them at the corners where the two sashes overlap. Drill at a slight downward angle all the way through the lower window and halfway through the upper window. Insert long nails (can be easily removed for emergency exit). For ventilation, drill additional holes no more than 5 inches above the first holes in the upper window frame.

Sliding Doors and Windows

Brace with a locking device that attaches to the frame. A wooden pole or broomstick handle in the base channel can be pried out, so install a key-operated locking device. Exterior thin gauge aluminum can be peeled to gain entry, so tighten adjustment screws to prevent lifting door out of channel.

Casement Windows

Casement windows can be easily forced or pried if the crank operator is loose. Adjust to reduce excess play. Remove the crank when not at home so that windows can't be pried.

Obstructed Views

Any accessible door or window that is shielded from view by shrubs or entryways is a potential weak spot. Trim shrubs (especially around first floor and basement windows). For entryways that obscure doors, make sure the area is well lit. Use motion detector lights. Always keep outer doors locked. Never buzz people in without knowing who is there. (It's much easier to keep an intruder out than to get him out.)

Garage Doors

On overhead track-operated doors, locks are usually poor quality. Panels that are thin or made of glass can be kicked

out or broken. Overhead tracks may have loosened. Install case-hardened hasps and padlocks on the outside. Reinforce weak panels (see Doors above). Secure track with heavier screws. Pin track above bar by drilling two holes and inserting heavy nails or bolts. For double outswing doors, install heavy-duty surface bolts at top and bottom of inactive door. Install case-hardened hasp and padlock on outside or inside.

Alarms

Consider installing an alarm on the doors and windows that are the most vulnerable.

Porches

Porch doors and windows are often obscured from view and should therefore be as secure as possible. Don't forget upper story porch doors and windows. See Doors and Windows above.

LIGHTING

Adequate exterior lighting and interior timers are important. Motion detector lights add the element of surprise and are economical.

Exterior

All entrances should be well lit. Leave porch or front door light on from dusk to dawn. Use motion detector lights on sides and back of house).

Interior

Use timers for lights when you are away or have any change in your schedule to create the appearance that your home is occupied.

Yard and Neighborhood Maintenance

Keep your yard and neighborhood well maintained. A deteriorating street conveys the message to criminals "nobody here cares or is watching out." Any time spent out on your street or front yard, gardening, shoveling or sitting on your porch is valuable for overall neighborhood safety. You get to know who lives there, you share information, and you create a watchful presence.

Never keep ladders or things for a thief to stand on in your yard. They can be stolen or used to hoist a thief to a window.

Don't display packaging of expensive items in your trash.

Ensure your house number is clearly visible from the street.

Make sure street lights, vacant lots and other common areas are well maintained on your street.

Make sure that the elderly people living on your street get their walks shoveled and get their trash taken out in bad weather. It is important that their homes look lived in and well maintained also.

KEEP A LIST OF YOUR VALUABLES

Include descriptions and serial numbers of electronic and stereo equipment, cameras, computers, sports equipment, jewelry, silver pieces, home office equipment, and power tools. Consider photographing or videotaping these possessions to document them.

Call 9-1-1 if you see suspicious activity.

Jamaica Hills Association

JHA Membership Chair: Nicholas Forbes

Membership Dues Form

If any information has changed in the last year, check off the appropriate line.

Owner 1 _____

Owner 2 _____

Street Address _____ Unit Number _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

2010 Dues

If you would like to catch up on your 2010 Membership, thank you for your payment.

Check one:

- 25.00 per household
- 10.00 if head of household is at least age 65

2011 Dues

Annual dues cover membership from November 2010 through October 2011.

Check one:

- 25.00 per household
- 10.00 if head of household is at least age 65

Please make check payable to:

Jamaica Hills Association

Mail check to

Jamaica Hills Association
PO Box 300392
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

or

Pay at the JHA table on Election Day,
November 3, at the Manning School,
130 Louders Lane

\$ _____ **Total Enclosed**

The Jamaica Hills Association appreciates your support!

*Membership cards are not provided.
Your canceled check is your receipt.*

Your suggestions and comments help us serve our community better. Send your comments to **advocate@jamaicahills.org**, mail them with your check, or talk with a JHA volunteer on November 2. We want to hear from you!

**Jamaica Hills Association
PO Box 300392
Jamaica Plain MA 02130**