

**Chestnut Hill Association**  
Spring, 2008 Newsletter

Greetings to everyone as the spring season arrives. Although we have had a cooler winter than global warming indicators predicted, it still has been relatively mild. But this is a season to be thankful for the blessings of a lovely neighborhood.

Let us note with much appreciation the trimming of the ivy from the oak tree at the entrance of Chestnut Hill. Our neighbor, **Greg Bailey**, did a great job in removing the root structure from the ivy, and the remaining vines will now recede in time. Let us hope that this will extend the life of the tree, which in many ways is a graceful entrance landmark to the neighborhood. Thank you, Greg.

As is often the case, otters paid a visit to Leonard Mill pond this year. No doubt they had ate as many fish they could find. The presence of otters, along with heron, is a good sign of the health of the ecosystem. If any neighbors spot other examples of wildlife they would like to note, please let us know, and send a picture if you can. I confess the otters were too fast to get a picture this season.

In terms of important dates, as noted in last year's picnic notes, we have reset our yard sale and picnic dates to those that prevailed in preceding years. For this year, this means that the **yard sale** will take place on **Saturday, May 10, 2008, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** I have updated the yard sale sign for posting at the entrance and **Preston Tawes** has agreed to place an ad in the *Daily Times*. You may remember that there was some discussion as to whether we should have a yard sale this year and by switching back to the original date, that is, the day before Mother's day. We'll see if the traffic returns on the scale of the past, and if you have things to sell, make plans accordingly for vehicles parking in the neighborhood and your gathering things you wish to sell on that day.

The second date is the **annual picnic**, which this year will be held on Sunday, **June 22**, a week after Father's day. **Starting time is 4:00 p.m.** and do not forget to bring folding chairs along with some of your favorite culinary creations. Once again, the **Cooper** family has given us permission to use the vacant lot adjacent between the English and Taylor homes, and **Larry Taylor** and **Roy Caffey** have volunteered to help with the tables and tent. If past experience is a guide, we generally have a feast on that day and hope that all of our neighbors will join us on that occasion.

In terms of other news, two houses have been on the market in what may be a recession. If there is a bright spot in all of this it is that this area has been less subject to speculative bubble behavior than resort communities, which means that values should hold fairly well.

Let us conclude with a reminder to everyone that our membership dues, as approved at our June 2007 picnic annual meeting, is now \$20, and was due on the first of January. If for some unexplainable reason you have not yet paid your dues, your timely payment to **Barbara White**, our Treasurer at 30275 Mallard Drive, will be most appreciated. As you know, the Association dues supports the spring yard sale publicity, the picnic, and most importantly, the mosquito spraying in the summer. As Bobbie noted to me recently, the spraying fee has gone up this year, but for which we hope our new dues level will be sufficient to cover all expenses.

In terms of this newsletter, as usual, we will distribute both hard copy and electronic versions of the newsletter. **Al Huffer** has generously helped us with duplication of the hard copy version, which should be at your doorstep soon. As to the electronic version, a pdf version may be read and/or downloaded at our new (we have migrated from alpha to netdrive) website, whose URL is:

<http://netdrive.montclair.edu/~lebel/ChestnutHillAssociation.html>

Phillip LeBel, President  
Chestnut Hill Association