

LASELL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.lasellneighborhood.org

WINTER 2008

WHAT IS THE LNA?

The Lasell Neighborhood Association was formed in October, 2000 by neighbors who wanted to have a voice in shaping development in our neighborhood, as well as a means for neighbors to socialize and get to know each other.

The LNA serves as a liaison between the neighbors and Lasell College, meeting with the relevant college and city officials as need arises.

The LNA is a non-profit, charitable organization with a current membership of about 350 people. A 20 member Council governs the LNA.

UPCOMING LNA ACTIVITIES

Ice Cream Social and Book Swap

February 10, 2:30-4:00 at the Walker Center, 171 Grove St., at the corner of Hancock and Grove.

Progressive Dinner

May 3

Annual Meeting

June 16, 7:30 pm at the Walker Center, 171 Grove St., at the corner of Hancock and Grove.

LASELL COLLEGE TO CONTINUE GROWING

This information is taken from two meetings in which Michael Alexander, the new president of Lasell College, addressed neighborhood concerns; an October meeting of the Lasell Neighborhood Council, and a November meeting with neighbors to discuss the proposed dorms on Woodland Road.

President Alexander says that his approach with the neighborhood will be to communicate openly. The College needs to grow and he realizes that will put pressure on the neighborhood. In the ten years that Alexander plans to be at Lasell, he anticipates there will be constant construction.

LASELL TO CREATE FIVE YEAR MASTER PLAN

Just after President Alexander's arrival at Lasell in July, he and his senior staff embarked on a strategic planning process that was completed in October. As a part of that strategy work, the College has committed itself to developing a five-year master plan. He hopes this master plan will be completed by June 2008, and that he will be able to share it with the City and with neighbors before it is final.

GROWTH IN ACADEMICS, STAFF & FACILITIES

Academically the College needs to grow and develop with more faculty, in more academic areas, and with deeper coverage in programs already offered. Two new masters programs will be offered:

- Masters in Communications
- Masters in Education
- Masters in Management to expand

The education program will be deepened – it currently has only three faculty. A new undergraduate program will be started in Environmental Sciences. An off-shoot of this program will be a Green Campus Task Force in which students are excited about participating. Expanding sciences will require that old laboratories are refurbished. *(continued on p.3)*

LNA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lasell Neighborhood Association ("LNA") is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in our community. As part of this mission, the LNA seeks to engage in constructive dialog with Lasell College and any other entities that affect the day to day life of the members of our Association.

RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

As many of you are aware, the MBTA is exploring the possibility of developing the Riverside property which would have a major impact on our neighborhood. Because of the size of the property, the scope of the development could be massive, including some combination of business, residential and retail use. Last fall the LNA and other neighborhood groups conducted a series of meetings to give residents the opportunity to learn about the potential development and to provide feedback to the MBTA. The LNA then prepared a summary of the neighborhood's concerns which was provided to the MBTA. Those concerns fall into three primary areas: traffic, overcrowded schools, and size and density of the project. A copy of that summary is available on the LNA website.

The MBTA published its Invitation to Bid on the right to develop the Riverside property in early January and included the neighborhood responses as an addendum to alert bidders to the residents' concerns. Bids are due in April.

Although it may not be possible to avoid development at Riverside, we have been working hard to have a voice in the process and make sure that the MBTA and the City are aware of the concerns of our neighborhood. The LNA has formed a sub-committee to work on issues involving the Riverside development on an on-going basis. This committee will work with similar groups from Lower Falls and the Auburndale Community Association. If anyone is interested in joining please contact Liz Miller.

SKATING AT THE COVE

Check the ice conditions at: (617) 796-1536!

Located on West Pine Street in Auburndale, the Auburndale Cove is a great place to skate! The warming hut at The Cove is open Mon., Wed., Thur. & Fri. 3:00 - 9:00 pm; Tue. 2:00 - 9:00 pm; and Sat., Sun., Holidays 10:00 am - 9:00 pm, depending upon the ice conditions.

Additionally, during the warmer months, the Auburndale Cove offers four picnic sites complete with tables and grills accommodating groups of 50 to 100 people. The Cove also has bathroom facilities, a playground, a ball field, tennis and basketball courts, an exercise trail, and a fishing and boating area. Picnic Permits are available from the Newton Parks & Rec Department-www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks/.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL & BOOK SWAP

Sunday, February 10, 2:30-4:00, at the Walker Center (corner of Grove and Hancock Streets).

Come out and see your neighbors, enjoy delicious Lizzy's ice cream and pick up some new reading material. The book swap is new this year. Just bring a few books that you are finished with- kids, young adult, or adult -and swap them for someone else's.

HOTEL INDIGO NOW OPEN

The old Holiday Inn on Grove Street has finished transforming into the Hotel Indigo and is now open for business. In the months to come a restaurant and outdoor pool will open at the hotel. The LNA has approached the Indigo management about allowing neighbors to purchase memberships to the pool as the Holiday Inn did but no final decision has been made. We will keep you posted.

HISTORIC DISTRICT SIGNS

The LNA is in the process of designing signs for our neighborhood promoting its designation as a historic district. We are looking at installing four signs at entry points to the neighborhood and are exploring how to get some city funds to help pay for the installation.

CONTACTING LASELL COLLEGE

Campus Police: 617/243-2279

Main Number 617/243-2000

Plant Operations: 617/243-2220

Business Office: 617/243-2101

<http://www.lasell.edu/>

AUBURNDALE HAPPENINGS

ACA 2nd Annual Rove the Cove 5k Family Fun Race

June 21. Check back at the LNA website this spring for a link to more info on the race.

Auburndale Library Hours

1:00 - 6:00; Mon, Tues, Thurs

9:00 -12:00; Saturday

Auburndale Library Story Hour

Finger rhymes, stories and songs for toddlers, Thursdays, 11:00 am, all welcome. Please contact Chris Wangler, the branch librarian, for more information via email at cwangler@minlib.net or by phone at 617/552-7158.

LNA ANNUAL MEETING

June 16, 2008

The annual meeting of the LNA will be held on Monday, June 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Walker Center in the upstairs conference room. We will elect new officers and discuss the agenda for the coming year.

All are welcome! Bring a neighbor with you!

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Each year, the LNA organizes a Progressive Dinner held the first Saturday of May. Last year, over 160 attended this event in which neighbors gather in each other's homes for appetizers, moving on to other homes for dinner with a new group, and finally coming together at one house for dessert.

This year's Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 3. The dinner is open to LNA members and non-members alike. If you are not an LNA member and would like to receive more information on the Dinner, email your contact information to Celia Morris- cmorris@cs.umb.edu.

LASELL CONTINUES GROWING

(continued from p. 1)

Pres. Alexander went on to say that Lasell is in "reasonable financial condition" and that in five years he foresees the College growing in the following ways:

- Increase the faculty from 57, today, to 90 – 100.
- Increase office space to accommodate faculty – there is a shortage even at current levels.
- Some added classroom space will be needed.
- Athletic facilities will be needed and are currently inadequate for a college of Lasell's size.
- Large meeting space/theater is needed. There is no space in which to assemble the entire College community.
- Student Population
 - o Currently 1300 undergraduates, 79 graduate students
 - o In 5 yrs: 1600 undergraduates, 300 graduate students (note: ultimately student undergraduate population may be as high as 2000, Lasell is unsure of what the upper cap is.)
- Student Housing
 - o 80% of undergraduates live on campus – 1028 students
 - o Lasell anticipates this proportion will be consistent and needs more housing. 260 additional beds are needed in five years.
 - o The current freshman class is large, diverse, and able. Pres Alexander anticipates they will retain a higher number of them, and will need an additional 130 beds by 2009.

NEW DORMITORIES

In the immediate future, two, 65-bed dormitories are planned for Woodland Road, between Forest and Studio where a parking lot is now situated. One dorm may include a large fitness room to serve part of the campus. (See related article on page 6.)

The College has not extended the lease on building that are used by the CES language program, and will be reclaiming those buildings for its own use in June.

In December, the College purchased 74 Grove Street (big white house with turquoise shutters) , which adjoins Lasell property.

WARD FOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Ward 4 is represented by two aldermen-at-large, Amy Mah Sangiolo and Leonard Gentile, and one ward alderman, Jay Harney. Our school committee member is Jonathan Yeo. All of these officials live in the Lasell neighborhood and have consistently supported our interests.

AMY SANGIOLO

Amy Sangiolo has been an Alderman since 1997. She is married to John Sangiolo, and has three kids in the Newton Public School system- two at Williams and one at Brown Middle School. Amy is also an attorney admitted to the NY and DC state bars and has been active in numerous organizations including serving on the Boards of Springwell (formerly known as the West Suburban Elder Services), the Community Advisory Board of UMASS Boston's Institute of Asian American Studies and the Community Advisory Board of WGBH.

JAY HARNEY

Jay Harney grew up in Newton and was recently elected to his third term as the Ward 4 Alderman. He is an attorney who has worked in both the public and private sectors, and is currently legal counsel at the Massachusetts State Lottery. He is an active community volunteer who lives at 42 Central Street with his wife, Martha, and his three children, two of whom attend Newton North.

LEONARD J. GENTILE

Lenny Gentile is a married father of four living in Auburndale. He is the president of Preferred Mortgage Group, Inc. He served on the School Committee from 1981-1989, and was Chairman from 1984-1986. First elected to the Board of Aldermen in 1990, he is currently Vice Chair of the Finance Committee and also serves on the Real Property Reuse and Public Facilities committees.

JONATHAN YEO

Jonathan Yeo was first elected from Ward 4 to the School Committee in November 2005. Jonathan was active on the Williams School PTO from 1996 through 2004, serving as PTO Co-President for two years. He was Co-President of the Newton PTO Council for the 2004-2005 school year. Jonathan received a B.A. in Earth Science from Wesleyan University and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University. He is the Director of the Division of Water Supply Protection at Massachusetts DCR, responsible for a 175 person unit that protects the Quabbin-Wachusett Reservoir system serving Newton and 2.2 million with high-quality drinking water. Jonathan and his wife Gail have two children: a son at Newton South and a son at the Corwin-Russell School.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Amy Sangiolo

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Auburndale, MA 02466
617/969-0677
sangiolo@rcn.com

Jay Harney

42 Central Street
Auburndale, MA 02466
617/332-4283
jayharney@rcn.com

Leonard J. Gentile

99 Aspen Ave.
Auburndale, MA 02466
617/527-5446
lennypmgi@aol.com

Jonathan Yeo

152 Grove Street
Auburndale, MA 02466
617/630-8180
schoolcommittee@newton.k12.ma.us

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Cynthia Stone Creem

617/722-1639
cynthia.creem@state.ma.us

Peter J. Katoujian

617/722-2130
Rep.PeterKoutoujian@hou.state.ma.us

Kay Khan

617/722-2140
Rep.KayKhan@hou.state.ma.us

NewtonSERVES

A Day of Community Service
Save the date! April 13, 2008

For more info, contact Beverly Droz, Director at 617/796-1290, or bdroz@newtonma.gov. For photos and information on past years, visit: <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/newtonserves/>

LNA OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Liz Miller, andresliz@comcast.net, 617-969-6206
Joel Shames, joelsshames@gmail.com, 617-964-7015

Treasurer: Bill Aldrich, wpa3@comcast.net

Membership: Celia Morris, cmorris@cs.umb.edu

Historic

District: Caroline Schwirian, schwirnewt@aol.com

Secretary: Sherry Moss Holstein, sherry.holstein@gmail.com

LNA COUNCIL

Richard Alfred, Jonathan Fazli, Gene Galton, Grace Galton, Nancy Goeselt-Bowler, Lynn Goldsmith, Aubry Harden, Ralph Johnston, Robert Kline, Carie Michael, Larry Schwirian, Linda Sherman, Jim Wessler

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

As you can see, the LNA has many projects. Our organization can always use volunteers for interesting long or short term tasks that will promote our objectives and provide a wonderful opportunity for people to get acquainted with their neighbors. Please contact Liz Miller (andresliz@comcast.net; 617/969-6206) or Joel Shames (joelsshames@gmail.com; 617/964-7015) to volunteer. They will be able to match your interests to the tasks at hand.

LASELL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclose your check, payable to *Lasell Neighborhood Association* and mail this form to:

Lasell Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 66266
Auburndale, MA 02466

Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Membership Fee \$40

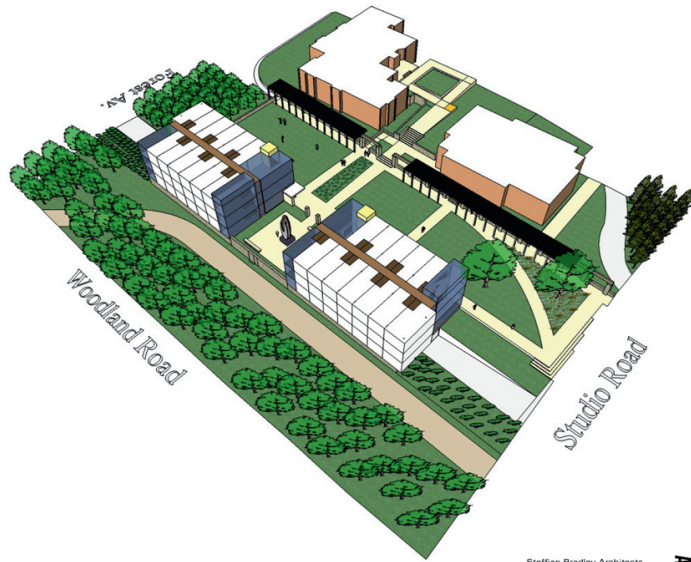
New Membership

Renewal Membership

Check here if contact info above is new or is different from that on the mailing label

PUBLIC MEETING FOR WOODLAND DORMS

A meeting with neighbors to review the two proposed dormitories on Woodland Road will be held on Thursday, Feb 28, at 7 p.m. in deWitt Hall at Lasell College. This meeting is being called by Mike Kruse, Director of Planning, in fulfillment of the administrative site plan review process. The 60-day review period for this project closes on March 10.



Lasell College

WOODLAND RESIDENCE HALLS
NEWTON, MA

OPTION_01_SLIDE_01_AERIAL

Steffan Bradley Architects
100 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02110 2106
T. 617.305.7100
Project Number: 1374
Scale: NTS
DECEMBER 5, 2007



*Dec. 5, 2007 drawings of the proposed dorms.
In the neighborhood survey, this plan was referred to as Option 1.*

Visit the LNA website!

<http://www.lasellneighborhood.org>

Lasell Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 66266
Auburndale, MA 02466