

JAMAICA HILLS ASSOCIATION

Community News Oct 08

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november

4 Presidential Election
Manning School 7 a - 8 p

12 JHA Social/Meeting
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december

10 JHA Social/Meeting
Springhouse 7 p

12 JHA Holiday Party
Maliotis Center 6 - 9 p
50 Goddard Ave

■ **Membership Dues and
Holiday Ticket Form enclosed**

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

Police Request Public's Help After Rash of Break-Ins

On October 28, Boston Police District E13 released a press release alerting Jamaica Hills residents of the eight break-ins reported in the last two months on Allandale Road, Cedarwood Road, Hillcroft Road, Louders Lane, Moss Hill Road, and Pond Street. Police were called to investigate a suspicious person knocking on the front and rear doors of a home on Woodland Road. The suspect is described as "a white male or a white Hispanic male, about 30 years old operating a tan motor vehicle possibly a Volkswagen." Another suspect detained after the Hillcroft break-in and later released for insufficient evidence is described as "a black male, 19 years old, 6' tall and 140 lbs."

In addition to increased patrols of the neighborhood, the police are urging the public to immediately report any suspicious activity or vehicles on your street or in a neighbor's driveway **by calling 9-1-1 first and then District 13 Detectives at (617) 343-5628**. Police also advise you to take measures to protect your property from break-ins. We are including a Crimewatch Guide with this newsletter that includes important phone numbers and tips from the BPD for better securing windows, doors, and locks.

Timely information and neighborhood vigilance makes communities safer. The JHA commends the 46 neighbors who volunteer as street captains to alert Moss Hill neighbors about crime reports. However, the following streets still need captains: Arborway (2 to 3), Avon Street, Cataumet Street, Cedarwood Road, Hillcroft Road, Parkside Drive, and Pond Street (3 to 4). Responsibilities are light; see the enclosed guidelines from the BPD Crimewatch.

If you would like to volunteer or if you need to contact your street captain, email us at advocate@jamaicahills.org.

Tribute to Outgoing JHA President John Lovett

With deep affection and gratitude, the JHA honors our friend and neighbor, John Lovett, for his ten years of public service as president of our neighborhood association. At our community meeting last May, John announced his resignation much to the surprise of members, who have long respected his leadership. (On the other hand, we suspect John's grandchildren, Billy and Charlotte, are now thrilled to have even more playdates with their beloved "Pa.")

When he first became president of the JHA, John hand-delivered his first mailing to each home on Moss Hill—nearly 800 households—to meet neighbors and become acquainted with every street in our community. This personal touch has been characteristic of John and his entire tenure. Longtime residents of Westchester Road, John and his wife, Helen, have spent countless hours from helping to organize community-wide events to personally addressing individual neighbors' concerns.

For those who know him, John is person of integrity. For those of us new to boards and community organizations, John is a mentor who freely shares his wisdom and advice. We are delighted that John will continue to serve on the Board of Directors. Please join us in thanking John for his dedication and leadership.

JHA Officers and Board of Directors 2008-2009

The JHA Board elected officers for the 2008-2009 term: President Polly Selkoe, Vice-President Celeste Walker, Treasurer Anne Connolly, Secretary Maria Morelli, and Corresponding Secretary Nicholas Forbes.

Board of Directors are Shelley Brauer, Joanne Bucilla, Bunny Cecchetto, Julia Clarke, Tanya Contos, Dorothy Farrell, James Greene, Donald Haber, Andrea Howley, Judith Hudson, Richard Iannella, Anne Katsiroubas, Kevin Leary, Stephen Lerman, Elena Loukas, John Lovett, Patricia Newman, Joseph Ryan, Anne Savereid, Kerri Schmidt, Peter Senopoulos, and Susan White. JHA volunteers are eager to continue serving our community. As always, we welcome your comments: advocate@jamaicahills.org.

Welcome New JHA President Polly Selkoe

The JHA is delighted to announce the election of Polly Selkoe as President of the Jamaica Hills Association. A resident of Moss Hill Road, Polly has been a tireless community volunteer since she and her husband, Dr. Dennis Selkoe, moved here in the 1960s. With a master's degree in urban planning from Tufts University, Polly is currently the Assistant Director of Regulatory Planning for the town of Brookline. As a longtime Chair of our Zoning Committee, Polly has lent her extensive urban planning experience to our community. Anyone who has worked with Polly praises her fairness, dedicated neighborhood advocacy, and willingness to support new ideas. Please join us in congratulating Polly!

Eliot Street-Jamaicaway Pedestrian Light Funding

The JHA sent a letter to **Governor Deval Patrick** to support **Representative Jeffrey Sánchez's** successful effort to secure authorization for funding for a pedestrian light at the Eliot Street and Jamaicaway intersection. Although funding is not guaranteed, especially during this difficult economic period, the JHA recognizes the danger pedestrians face trying to reach Jamaica Pond; we urge Governor Patrick to approve funding for this safety measure.

Request to Remove Double Utility Poles

Throughout Jamaica Plain, those short old poles are still maintained several years after the new poles were installed, even though state law prohibits the presence of these attached poles for more than 90 days. Utility company spokesmen stated in a *Boston Globe* article last year that these old poles are not a threat to public safety; however, we are not confident that the poles, which were intended to be temporary, will remain safely attached for an indefinite period of time. The reason for the delay is that five utility companies must coordinate their schedules to remove the wires in a specific sequence. The JHA has written state and city officials to request that a schedule be coordinated and conveyed to the neighborhood.

Manning School Wish List Principal Sara Stone is asking the community for donations of the following items: Puzzles, board games, Uno, colored tape, and Sentence Strips. Please bring your donation to the Manning School when you vote on Election Day.

JHA Holiday Party December 12

We are so excited about our holiday party on Friday, **December 12**, from 6 to 9 pm at the **Maliotis Cultural Center** (Hellenic College campus, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline). A sense of community is more important than ever, and we need you to make this party a success. If you are new to the neighborhood or to JHA activities, you can count on JHA volunteers to warmly welcome you and to introduce you to new people! Our party is coordinated by Board member **Tanya Contos**, who is planning a menu of delectable hors d'oeuvres and other delicious treats. Paintings by JP artists **David Sturtevant** and **Sandra Papon** will be exhibited and are available for sale from the artists. Paid in advance, tickets are \$25 per person (but \$35 at the door!). **Kindly submit the enclosed form or pay at the JHA table on Election Day, November 4, at the Manning School.**

Moss Hill Community Orchard

An innovative project conceived and led by Moss Hill neighbor, **Margaret Connors**, was featured in *Edible Boston's* Summer 2008 issue. Fruit-bearing trees are planted on homeowners' private lots and the fruit is accessible to neighbors to create a community orchard in the city. Beyond the obvious benefits, the project teaches residents about tree grafting and maintenance, brings neighbors closer, and allows city residents to help sustain our environment. So far, thirty trees have been planted on private lots and in public areas around the Manning School on Louders Lane. To learn more about this ingenious community project, read "Fruit for the People: Moss Hill Orchard" by Susan Koechner online at www.edibleboston.net. To learn how to start a community orchard, contact Margaret Connors (www.npacboston.org).

JHA Membership Drive 2009

The Jamaica Hills Association, a volunteer neighborhood advocacy group, depends solely on membership dues to fund communications and events that inform and engage residents. Please support your community! Kindly submit your payment with the enclosed form or pay at the JHA table on Election Day, November 4, at the Manning School. Dues are \$25 per household, or \$10 if head of household is at least 65 years old.

Yard Waste Collection October 27 to December 1

Boston Public Works will collect your leaves and yard waste for composting on Monday, our trash and recycling day, through December 1. (No more Saturday collections.) Place leaves and yard debris in large paper leaf bags or open barrels labeled "yard waste" (no plastic bags). Obtain Yard Waste stickers for barrels by calling 617-635-4959. Two stickers per household. Tie branches with string (3-feet maximum length, 1-inch maximum diameter). Do not put branches in barrels. Put barrels, bags, and branches on the curb by 7 am on recycling day. Composted yard waste becomes natural fertilizer for Boston's community gardens.

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

Membership Dues Form and Holiday Party Ticket Purchase
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 _____

2008 Dues If you would like to catch up on your 2008 Membership, thank you for your payment.	Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> 25.00 per household <input type="checkbox"/> 10.00 if head of household is at least age 65
2009 Dues Annual dues cover membership from November 2008 through October 2009.	Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> 25.00 per household <input type="checkbox"/> 10.00 if head of household is at least age 65
Holiday Party Tickets Join us Friday, December 12! Maliotis Cultural Center, Hellenic College 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline	_____ Number of tickets @ \$25.00 per ticket \$ _____ Total Amount for Tickets
<i>Please make check payable to:</i> Jamaica Hills Association <i>Mail check to</i> Jamaica Hills Association PO Box 300392 Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 <i>or</i> Pay at the JHA table on Election Day, November 4, at the Manning School, 130 Louders Lane	\$ _____ Total Enclosed <i>The Jamaica Hills Association appreciates your support!</i> <i>Tickets and membership cards are not provided.</i> <i>Your canceled check is your receipt.</i>

Your suggestions and comments help us serve our community better. Kindly answer our brief survey on the back of this form or send your comments to **advocate@jamaicahills.org**.

Jamaica Hills Association Community Survey

Thank you for telling us your suggestions and concerns. Feel free to email us at advocate@jamaicahills.org.

> What issues do you feel strongly about?

> What suggestions do you have for the JHA?

> How would you like to participate in the JHA?

> What guest speakers or information workshops would like the JHA to plan?

• ○ jamaica hills
association

holiday ○

○ party ○ ○

○ ○ •

hors d'oeuvres ○ ○

cash bar jp artists

exhibition*

meet new people

bring a friend

Maliotis Cultural Center | Hellenic College
50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline

December 12, 2008 Friday
6 pm to 9 pm

\$25 per person | \$35 at the door

Please send your check to the JHA
PO Box 300392 JP 02130

Or pay at the Manning School
on November 4

○ •
○ *Original works of art available for sale
from artists **David Sturtevant** and **Sandra Papson**

Jamaica Hills Association

PO Box 300392

Jamaica Plain MA 02130