

JAMAICA HILLS ASSOCIATION

Community News Oct 09

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13 JHA Social/Meeting
Springhouse 7 p

19 U.S. Senate 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.**

Crimewatch Report If you subscribe to the JHA email alerts or if you receive them from your street captain, you have been informed of crime reports and advice from the Boston Police as soon as they are available. JHA Crimewatch provides this report to ensure that those not on our email list are aware of the types of incidents that occurred this summer and fall. Because Moss Hill is a relatively safe place to live, we might overlook some basic safety precautions. With heightened awareness rather than alarm, you can take defensive measures to protect your property and your neighborhood. Note that most of the car breaks and the two house breaks involved *unlocked doors*. We cannot emphasize the importance of locking your doors, responding to solicitors through a locked door, and not storing any valuables in your car.

Car Breaks At least 10 car breaks were reported over the summer and early fall. In one case, car windows were broken; in most cases, the doors were unlocked and electronic devices were stolen. Police across the state are reporting high rates of car breaks very likely by desperate drug addicts looking quick cash.

Stripped Car In June a Honda Fit on Moss Hill Road was jacked onto blocks and the tires and rims were stolen. This type of crime is the work of professionals. BPD Auto Investigator Michael Santry talked about the city-wide investigation and safety tips at the June JHA meeting.

Burglaries Two house breaks, one over the summer and the other reported on Oct. 26. Both times, intruders entered unlocked doors.

Scams This summer a wave of college-age individuals selling scam magazine subscriptions hit Moss Hill repeatedly. Never give money to door-to-door solicitors.

Ruses At least two neighbors reported that someone claiming to be from a utility company tried to gain access to their homes. Utility companies never dispatch employees to customers' homes without proper advance notification. Never let unscheduled utility workers into your home; report suspicious visits to the utility company and the police.

Sham Contractors The Better Business Bureau has been reporting nationwide locksmith scams involving thousands of consumer complaints. One neighbor contacted a locksmith she believed was based in Brookline. The address of the business was traced to a cemetery. Visit www.mass.gov to find out if a contractor is licensed.

Download home safety guidelines from our website: Community Action > Crimewatch.

JHA Membership Drive Begins November 3

Remember to visit volunteers at the JHA table when you vote at the Manning School (130 Louder's Lane) on **November 3**. Dues for the upcoming year are still \$25 per household, or \$10 if the head of household is at least age 65. Membership form is enclosed! The JHA is a nonpartisan neighborhood advocacy group that depends on membership dues to maintain its outreach efforts. **Thank you!**

JHA Officers and Board Members 2009 – 2010

At its Annual Meeting in May, the JHA general membership elected its Board of Directors for the 2009-2010 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
Bunny Cecchetto, Westchester Road
Julia Clarke, Louder's Lane
Tanya Contos, Moss Hill Road
Dorothy Farrell, Pond Street
James Greene, Moss Hill Road
Donald Haber, Avon Street
Andrea Howley, Pond Street
Judith Hudson, Moss Hill Road

Richard Iannella, Hillcroft Road
Anne Katsiroubas, Calvin Road
Kevin Leary, Woodland Road
Elena Loukas, Pond Circle
John Lovett, Westchester Road
Michael McGuire, Hopkins Road
Patricia Newman, Lila Road
Kerri Schmidt, Westchester Road
Peter Senopoulos, Hopkins Road
Susan White, Rockwood Street

New Manning School Principal BPS Superintendent Dr. Carol Johnson has appointed a new Manning School principal, **Ethan-d'Ablemont Burnes**, to replace Sara Stone, who returned to California. Mr. d'Ablemont-Burnes was previously a Boston Principal Fellow at the Ohrenberger Elementary School in West Roxbury, where he was a member of both the instructional leadership and the student support teams. He has taught elementary school in Denver, Colorado, and at the Boston Renaissance Charter School. In addition, he was the policy director with the Boston Plan for Excellence and a policy analyst for the Office of the Governor. Board Members **Polly Selkoe**, **Anne Katsiroubas**, and **Julia Clarke** met with the new principal to welcome him to the community and to discuss ways the Manning and the JHA can work together, especially to address the impact parking, speeding, and maintenance issues have had on nearby residents. Mr. d'Ablemont-Burnes's response has been excellent, and we look forward to hearing the Manning Committee's report at the November board meeting.

JHA Celebrates Its 70 Anniversary In 2010, the Jamaica Hills Association, the oldest neighborhood association in Massachusetts, will celebrate 70 years of public service. Board Member **Tanya Contos** is coordinating a wonderful celebration for the community on May 15 at the Maliotis Cultural Center. To help fund this event, the JHA won't be hosting its annual holiday party this December; however, we are looking forward to one of our best events ever this spring!

Civic Courtesy

Neighbors, you make Moss Hill one of the best places in Boston to live. Some simple reminders to keep

Moss Hill safe and beautiful: Observe one-way traffic signs...Reduce your speed on side streets...Leaf collection is on Mondays not Saturdays...Do not dump yard waste on the grounds of residential or institutional abutters (illegal dumping is a \$1000 fine)...Let the JHA know when new neighbors move in. We'll send them a Red Book, home and neighborhood safety tips, and other community resources. Thanks for your help!

Wee Stone House Written by Moss Hill neighbor **Steve Lerman**, *Wee Stone House* is the story of the picturesque stone house at 57 Louder's Lane. It began with the mystery of a beautiful unidentified bride in a 1939 photograph. It relates local people to world history: Corporal John Lowder who fought in the Battle of Lexington; the Nichols and Bowditch families, descended from a victim of the infamous Salem witch trials and "The Great Navigator" Nathaniel Bowditch; and the Wilsons who built Wee Stone House, inspired by Ernest Flagg, a world-famous architect who wanted to provide affordable houses for the common man. Their daughter Toni Wilson, the bride in the 1939 photograph, dated the actor Sterling Hayden, experienced first-hand China's Anti-Japanese War, and met notables such as Chiang Kai-shek, Chou En-lai, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Even the origin of the term "gung ho" is revealed. Visit the JHA website to download this engaging story.

Community Connection

Interested in meeting up with other Moss Hill gardeners? Drop **Myrna Balk** a line to get on her email list: myrna@myrnabalk.com. Woodland Road artist Myrna Balk was a finalist in Mayor Menino's garden contest this summer. Congratulations!

Jamaica Hills Association

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 _____

2009 Dues If you would like to catch up on your 2009 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
2010 Dues Annual dues cover membership from November 2009 through October 2010.	Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> 25.00 per household <input type="checkbox"/> 10.00 if head of household is at least age 65
<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 3, at the Manning School, 130 Louders Lane	\$ _____ Total Enclosed <i>The Jamaica Hills Association appreciates your support!</i> <i>Membership cards are not provided.</i> <i>Your canceled check is your receipt.</i>

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 3. We want to hear from you!

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