

# THE NEHHPA NEWSLETTER

## The Importance of Being a NEHHPA Member

The annual membership meeting is fast approaching next month and thus it is a good time to remind everyone of why membership in NEHHPA is so important. As it has been told in earlier editions of this newsletter, the designation of our neighborhood as a State and Local Historic District did not happen by chance. It took the efforts of many people who put in countless hours to make it happen. For example, the application for National Historic District designation was over fifty-four pages long. The application contains a remarkable inventory of the homes in our neighborhood. A project like this can seem overwhelming, but if divided by streets with each being done by a separate individual, it becomes far less daunting. This upcoming year, the Board would like to make a compilation of our neighborhood's history from the source material which right now is spread over many boxes and make it available to everyone electronically. It will take time to do so, but that time can be shortened considerably by the help of interested members.

NEHHPA is made up of unique and interesting people. The common thread which ties us together is our interest in preserving older homes. Much has been written here about the importance of preservation and the mechanics involved in making that happen neighborhood-wide, but another part of our mission statement is communication. Given our busy lives, no one person is likely to be aware of everything that may currently affect our neighborhood. Thus, a broad and diverse membership may be able to alert the rest of us on matters of importance which otherwise may be missed. It can be done here or even more quickly by posting to the NEHHPA website.

*See NEHHPA Member, Sheet 3*

### Annual NEHHPA General Membership Meeting

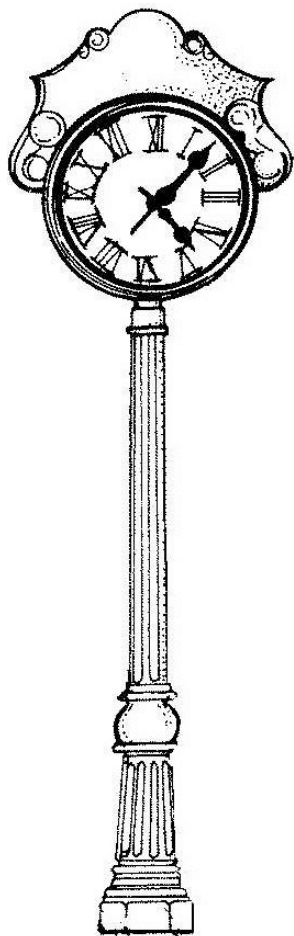
February 26, 2009 at 7 PM

At Noland Memorial Church

Guest Speakers:

Tina Vick, Newport News City Council

Mike Poplawski, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism



#### Calendar

**February 10, 2009**

NEHHPA Board Meeting

**February 26, 2008**

Annual NEHHPA Membership Meeting

**March 10, 2009**

NEHHPA Board Meeting

**April 14, 2009**

NEHHPA Board Meeting

**May 2, 2009**

Yard Sale

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Now that the holidays are over and we begin a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NEHHPA Board for their work on behalf of the North End. Thank you Ed, Michelle, Cathy, Sheila, Billie, John, Debi, and Karen. And thank you to all our Block Captains. Together their efforts have helped keep NEHHPA going and information flowing in the neighborhood.

The unity and voice of the North End is through NEHHPA. If we allow NEHHPA to fail, then it would be extremely difficult for us as individuals to muster the strength to fight for important issues that will impact the neighborhood. There is strength in numbers. This is why we need you, the neighborhood, to join NEHHPA. This organization cannot run without funds and your membership is the contribution that keeps NEHHPA a viable, strong neighborhood force. Remember NEHHPA is the driving force in keeping the North End a single family neighborhood. NEHHPA began the process of establishing an Architectural Review Board which we have today. NEHHPA helped create the park where a historic designed clock stands, which was donated to the city with funds raised by NEHHPA. NEHHPA helped the residents of Newport News realize that we were their first neighborhood through the Historic House Tours, and NEHHPA helps keep the lines of communication open between the North End residents, the city, and the shipyard.

I truly believe the North End-Huntington Heights would not exist, as we know it today, if it were not for all the giving people who worked so hard to create and run NEHHPA.

Our annual General Membership Meeting is on February 26<sup>th</sup>, at Noland Memorial Unity Methodist Church. We encourage you to come at 6:45pm and become a new member or renew your membership. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 pm, when we will have Councilwoman Tina Vick and Mr. Mike Poplawski, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, as guest speakers. Following this is our regular meeting where we will take nominations, from the floor, for the 2009 NEHHPA Board and vote on changes to the NEHHPA By-Laws.

A special thank you to Kathleen Tierney and Steve Hudak who helped decorate our park for the holidays, and to Agnes Kump who played piano at our Holiday Covered Dish Party and to J.R. Jones and Howard Hodnett for reasons they know.

Kathy Whittaker 247-1540 [fgwhittaker@cox.net](mailto:fgwhittaker@cox.net)

# North End Huntington Heights Preservation Association

## Officers

**President:** Kathy Whittaker

**Vice President:** Ed Matz

**Treasurer:** TBD

**Historian:** Michelle Carpenter

**Secretary:** Cathy Luckadoo

## Directors

**Block Captain Coordinator:**  
Sheila Kerr-Jones

**Codes:** Billie Leggette

**Neighborhood Crime Watch:**  
Debra Ritger

**Merchandising, Yard Sale:**  
John Runner

**Membership:**  
Karen Hammond

## THE NORTH END HUNTINGTON HEIGHTS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

The mission statement for the North End Huntington Heights Preservation Association is to preserve the historic residential character of North End Huntington Heights through advocacy, communication, and education.

## NEHHPA Member

*Cont. from page 1*

One does not need to be a Board Director to contribute their expertise. Not everyone has the time nor inclination to serve on a formal board. However, any organization will need certain skills at some point which Board members may not have and, if you are there, you will have a significant impact at that point. Having a strong membership is an important resource for skills and also for neighborhood advocacy for, as the saying goes, there is strength in numbers. In addition to the aforementioned reasons for being a member, there are several others which should be pointed out. Obviously the \$10.00 for the annual dues helps to keep the organization on firm financial ground, but a strong membership also helps to give weight to NEHHPA when negotiating with outside agencies.

Finally, perhaps it would be good to reflect on what might have been had there been no NEHHPA, which had its start in the seventies long before many current homeowners ever moved into this neighborhood. The late Parke Rouse, Jr. wrote in a *Daily Press* column from the late seventies, "So the North Enders are banding together to save what is left of the Newport News suburb? ... Today Huntington Avenue -- North End's onetime pride -- seems a banquet of leftovers." Perhaps to him it would seem that our neighborhood's better days were behind it. Certainly, at that time the neighborhood was zoned for multifamily dwellings and generally had a feeling of neglect given by generally lower property values, houses at the point of condemnation, and long resale times. But, through the efforts of NEHHPA, the city has made many changes in within our neighborhood such as establishing the neighborhood as a

historic district, zoning, creating a park at the convergence of Huntington and Warwick Avenues, rebuilding sidewalks, and planting trees. Certainly the efforts of individuals on their homes along Huntington Avenue haven't gone unnoticed.

Property values have also risen considerably over the last ten years. Our neighborhood may not be what it was sixty or seventy years ago, what neighborhood is, but it is doubtful that one could call it a "banquet of leftovers." With your continued support through your dues and participation in NEHHPA, we can make our neighborhood a welcoming feast in both architecture and neighborliness.

Because so much has been done over the years, there is a danger in becoming complacent and to ask the question of what is in it for me, but the better question is do you want to do without NEHHPA? You may not use the Police or Fire Department on a regular basis, but they are there when they are really needed and so you can say as much for NEHHPA. There are times when a strong neighborhood organization is needed. With your continued support, through your dues and participation in NEHHPA, it will be there when it is needed.

### HOUSE PLAQUES

Give your historic home the recognition it deserves. Through NEHHPA, you can purchase a bronze plaque featuring the year your home was built and the original homeowner's name. The plaque will include the inscription "Historic North End Huntington Heights".

The cost is \$195, due when you place your order. In your order, include the original homeowner's name and year of construction to:

NEHHPA, P. O. Box 75  
Newport News, VA 23607

## NEHHPA Accomplishments:

Because it is not always easy to remember and depending on when you moved into the neighborhood, you might not know many of NEHHPA's past accomplishments. Here is a list of just some of them. It is not at all an exhaustive list nor is it in any particular chronological order.

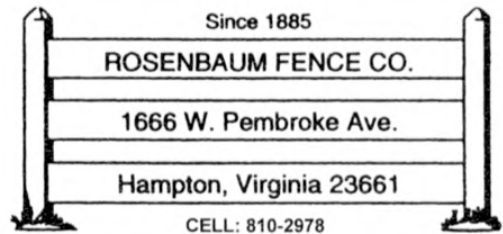
- Establishment of the neighborhood as a National and State historic district.
- Modification of zoning from multi-family to single family
- Establishment of a park at convergence of Huntington and Warwick Avenues (formerly a gas station)
- Visibility to the city and region as Newport News' oldest existing neighborhood through homes tours
- Establishment of neighborhood as city historic district and establishment of an Architectural Review Board
- Christmas trees along Huntington Avenue
- The distinctive Clock in the park
- Demolition of the abandoned Riverside hospital on 50th Street
- Recognition of the neighborhood by the city and the shipyard

None of the above could have happened without the untold efforts of the many members of NEHHPA to whom we can give a heartfelt word of thanks.

### Attention!

In order to reduce printing costs, after the January NEHHPA Newsletter, printed copies will be limited to NEHHPA members only.

If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the NEHHPA Newsletter, contact us at [info@NEHHPA.org](mailto:info@NEHHPA.org)



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11 AM to 9 PM

1 PM to 8 PM

Monday - Saturday

Sunday

## Historic Corner - Window Restoration and Repair

We just celebrated the first year in our beautiful home at 5800 Huntington Avenue. It has been a trying year with a major challenge nearly every month beginning with a major chimney restoration project, followed by replacing the water and sewer line into the house, and every moving part on our air conditioning system. Our most recent project has involved window repair so I thought this would make an excellent topic of discussion in the historic corner column!



*One of several panes in the master bedroom window*

When we moved in we were well aware that close to 30 individual window panes on the house contained either major cracks or were broken and as luck would have it, nearly all of those panes were on the second or third floor of the house and unfortunately one of the windows which was badly damaged was an arched window on the foot of the second floor landing which had been partially sealed up with plastic! As we braved through the start of our second winter in the house we very quickly realized something had to be done – the drafts were apparent everywhere and particularly in the master

bedroom where there were four panes alone that were broken or cracked. At first my husband thought he might tackle the job himself but very quickly realized it would be too time intensive.

Based on a referral from a friend, we contacted Binswanger Glass in Newport News, and they were able to order new glass, remove the broken glass and install the new glass within two weeks just prior to the Christmas holiday. They not only did a professional job, but cleaned up after themselves both inside and outside the house and even scraped old paint off the adjacent glass panes they were working on and cleaned the outside of the glass once the job was completed.

Since completion of the job, noise from the shipyard and traffic has decreased by about fifty percent not to mention the draft factor in our master bedroom has gone down too. There is still a small draft in the room but that involves another project . . . removing and replacing a second story patio door.

There are a number of articles and good resources available regarding historic house restoration and tips on window repair. Two very good places to begin looking for more information on this subject are:

- 1) Routine Maintenance on Historic Wooden Windows [www.oldhouseweb.com/how-to-advice/routine-maintenance.shtml](http://www.oldhouseweb.com/how-to-advice/routine-maintenance.shtml)
- 2) Preservation Briefs – The Repair of Historic Wooden Windows <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/brief09.htm>

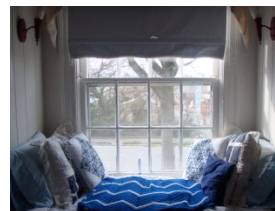
Both of these articles state that with good storm windows and exterior caulking old windows can be just as energy efficient as new windows. Routine maintenance is encouraged to not only improve the overall energy efficiency of your house but preserve the window. Here are the steps they recommend:

- 1.) Remove any loose interior and exterior paint
- 2) Remove and repair the sash along with reglazing
- 3) Make any necessary repairs to the frame
- 4) Apply weatherstripping and reinstall the sash
- 5) Repaint

If unsure of the soundness of the wood, you push an ice pick or an awl into the wood surface at an angle. The National Park Service says that sound wood will separate into long fibrous splinters but decayed wood will lift up in short irregular pieces.

Most of this work is time intensive but not difficult. If you decide to contract the job out always get references and follow up on the quality of the work of the contractor. Stay in touch throughout the duration of job and ask questions.

*Article submitted by  
Michelle Carpenter,  
NEHHPA Historian.*



*The same master bedroom window with no cracks or breakage!*

## NEHHPA Website Reestablished

One of the more exciting things to have happened this year is that NEHHPA has reestablished its website through the efforts of and generous donation from Michelle Carpenter and her family. The website address is [www.nehpha.org/](http://www.nehpha.org/). As has been mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, one of NEHHPA's projects is to preserve our neighborhood's history and this website gives us a cost effective way of sharing it. It is also hoped that this be an inspiration to members to share current stories and items which will also become part of our history.

The website is also intended to be an up to date source for news that maybe useful to you either from the City or from the Board of NEHHPA or even from your fellow neighbors. It will also be a source of basic information such as NEHHPA's organizational structure and its by-laws and proposed changes, meeting schedules, and copies of previous editions of the newsletter to name just a few items. We would like a have input at the upcoming membership meeting for additional suggestions as to what the members would like to see on the website.

Finally, the application for membership is available online as well so that residents can print out a copy and bring it to the meeting if they don't have a copy of the newsletter handy!

## Block Captains

47th - 50th Vacant  
 51st - Thom Matheson - 346 51st  
 52nd - Vacant  
 53rd - Lynn Ritger 349 53rd  
 West Hunt 51-54 Linda Bordeaux 226 52nd  
 54th - Bonnie Snead - 342 54th  
 55th - Phil Shook 310 55th  
 56th - Betty Zattiero 5601 Huntington  
 57th - Virginia Gall 338 57th  
 58th - Pat Ward 315 58th  
 59th - Karen Velkey 6702 Huntington  
 60th - John Hughes 335 60th  
 61st - Glenn Norcutt 319 61st  
 62nd - Brenda Robbins 330 62nd  
 63rd - Matt Gardner 6300 Huntington  
 64th - Bea Dahlen 6306 Huntington  
 65th - Billie Leggette 6408 Huntington  
 66th - George Silk 6512 Huntington  
 67th - Agnes Kump 314 67th  
 68th - James Wells - 6702 Huntington  
 69th, Warwick - Vacant  
 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, Belvedere and River Rd - Steve Hudak 319 71st

## Over the Back Fence:

### *Keeping Small Spaces Warm.*

When used safely (plugged into an outlet - not an extension cord - and kept at least 3 feet away from combustible materials, such as drapes, bedding, and furniture), a space heater lets you keep a small area toasty without having to make the rest of the house feel like a sauna. Oil filled radiators or ceramic space heaters are quiet and when used as a supplement to your main heating system, can be

more economical than turning up the thermostat. Space heaters of the type mentioned are also quiet. There are also heaters that look like Vermont wood-burning stoves that could be found at home improvement stores or warehouse stores that provide the attractiveness of a real wood burning stove or fireplace without the need for a chimney.

*Anonymously submitted.*

The Over the Back Fence section is reserved for news and submissions from the neighborhood.

## Annual NEHHPA General Membership Meeting

February 26, 2009 at 7 PM  
At Noland Memorial Church

This is a reminder to everyone that our annual General Membership Meeting is on February 26th, at Noland Memorial Unity Methodist Church. We encourage you to come at 6:45 PM to become a new member or to renew your membership. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 PM. The Meeting will highlight guest speakers providing information of interest to our neighborhood, and then conduct the business meeting, which will present the items below on the agenda.

We are pleased to announce that Council member Tina Vick will be able to attend and share with us the City's vision and upcoming plans, which may have an impact on our neighborhood as well as conduct a question and answer session with our members.

We are also pleased to announce that Mr. Mike Poplawski, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, will also be a guest speaker. He will speak to us about the long running project for the beautification of the Warwick Avenue corridor. He will enlighten us about what the project entails and its timeframe for completion.

Following the guest speakers we will conduct our regular meeting. The Board will explain what has been done over the past year, where it would like to go in the next year, and what is hoped to be accomplished. There are some proposed changes to the By-laws to be voted on including: reduction of the number of Board members, the consolidation of Officers, elimination of term limits for Board members, and a reduction in the number of Board meetings. It is hoped that we would have an increase in the number of membership meetings so that members would be able to have more meaningful input into NEHHPA. Another consideration is whether to continue distributing the newsletter neighborhood-wide.

Further information as to exact by-law proposals can be found on the NEHHPA website. Nominations to the Board will then be determined based on acceptance of the by-law changes. Again, please see our website, [www.nehhpa.org](http://www.nehhpa.org), for details of by-law modifications and other information about the membership meeting.

The Board hopes to continue the rebuilding of membership effort and to establish better working relationships with the City of Newport News and its departments as well as with our biggest neighbor, Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding. Each member who joins and participates in those efforts brings all of us that much closer to achieving these ends.

*North End-Huntington Heights Preservation Association*

**NEHHPA, P.O. Box 75, Newport News, VA 23607**

**Application for membership**

**Please complete this form and mail with your check (payable to NEHHPA) to the address listed above.**

**Please circle the category of membership below for which you are applying.**

**Resident Member:** To be eligible, you must reside in the area from 46th Street to 70th, bounded by Huntington and Warwick, and 70th to 73rd, from Warwick to the James River.

**Associate Member:** This category applies to all who live outside the area described above. Associates have all rights of membership excluding the right to vote and hold office.

The cost is **\$10 per year** per household and is good February of the current year until February of the following year. Lifetime membership is also available for \$100 per household.

Number of years \_\_\_\_ X \$10 = Total \$\_\_\_\_\_ or purchase a Lifetime Membership for \$100

Member #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_ (in case something happens while you're out of town)

Please circle below any committees with which you might be willing to assist.

Block Captain	Membership	Homes Tour	Newsletter
Preservation Forum	Web Site	Beautification	City/Shipyard Liaison
Codes & Zoning	Welcoming	Advertising Sales	Merchandise Sales
Yard Sale	Special Events	Safety	Historical

Website Address: [www.nehpa.org](http://www.nehpa.org)



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