



The Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume 12 Number 1

The Digging Out Issue, March, 2005

THANK YOU – AND LOOKING FORWARD....

Thanks to all of you who made a recent contribution to the **Newsletter**.



It goes without saying – but we'll say it anyway – that it's appreciated greatly.

Since last fall's edition, we heard from about 50 of you, with contributions of just over \$1300; this will certainly support the **Newsletter** for the next two issues.

Thanks too to those who offered feedback as well, always good to receive. Actually, for us the best thing about doing the **Newsletter** is learning anew, with every issue, that there are so many neighbors who share a commitment to keeping our neighborhood a warm and vibrant place for everyone to live. That alone makes it all worthwhile.

We'll also take this chance to insert our regular reminder that we value and need and depend upon your *other* contributions as well: your neighborhood-related stories, of almost any kind, whenever you feel inspired or simply in the mood; your story ideas, which we can flesh out together with you; your help in planning Newsletter issues, worth its weight in gold – please let us know if you can take part; but equally golden, your suggestions for how we can make the **Newsletter** better and more responsive to your own wishes and needs, because that's what we're here for.

As we've said before, the **Newsletter** door is always open – though in practice, there's not really a door at all. Just come right in.

Back briefly to finances: If you didn't get a chance to contribute to the **Newsletter** last time, or if you haven't contributed for a while, it would be great to hear from you. Checks should be made payable to "Menotomy Rocks Neighborhood Association" and sent to Bill Berkowitz at 12 Pelham Terrace.

Thank you again! With your support and participation, we're looking forward to a great neighborhood year in 2005.



ONE VILLAGE IN THE HOOD

By Mary Cummings (*Jason Street*)

(Names have been removed for the web edition)

Hillary Clinton's book *It Takes a Village* often comes to mind as I amble around the neighborhood. One of the most delightful neighborly scenes I observe is the interaction among three neighborhood families that form one of the many child-rearing, family-supporting "villages" in our exceptional community.

The homes in this village are first, third, and fifth in a row of houses on

the street, making the sidewalk variously a bicycle trail, a canvas for chalk art, a lemonade café, a safe runway for toddlers, or an extended family front porch. All of the adults and children like to be outside exercising. None of them has cable television. "It's like an old-fashioned neighborhood," said one mother. They share play dates, errands, baby-sitting, lots of baking needs, and good times in each other's company. "It's fun to have spontaneity reign," commented a father.

The village spirit expands around corners and up and down hills where it surely embraces similar neighborly extended families. It's refreshing to stroll through this little village and enjoy the simple, old-fashioned, invaluable aspects of neighborhood life. People enjoying and supporting each other, especially the children, is what it's all about. Jason Heights is a hamlet full of villages; and we'd love to hear about yours.



Get a better view of sample maps on our website.

HISTORIC MAPS OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND TOWN

By Andrew McKee (*Academy Street*)

I don't know about you, but I love old maps. I am always stunned when I come across an antique map of a place I know today. As self-evident as change is, I am still surprised by the dramatic impact 150 years can have on a town. Not that I would expect Arlington to look and feel the same then as it does today, but old maps can reveal some amazing things about the town. For example, most people know about the railroad which ran through the center of town (which now comprises the Minute Man Trail); but did you know that there was a trolley car "light rail" line which ran up and down Mass Avenue to Harvard Square in the 1850's?

Most of us who live in or near Arlington Center share a common interest and appreciation for the history of the town. The richness of this history is often told through a narrative that encompasses the lives of the people who once lived here. It can also be seen through the historic preservation efforts and the scattering of historic homes and their signage.

One day last fall I learned about some wonderful detailed maps from Eliza Burden (of Jason Street) that show the entire town of Arlington from the 1850's, but that also reveal incredible details of each street in the town. Dropping off a photocopy of two antique maps in my mailbox, Eliza pointed me in the direction of the Local History Room at the

Robbins Library, where original versions of these maps can be found. They include street maps with the names of the homeowners, as well as lot lines and house footprints. I was amazed to discover that homes along the entire length of Pleasant Street stretched all the way down to the edge of Spy Pond - with no homes in between! What a back yard these people had! Today, there are probably a hundred houses dotting the landscape.

So, determined to find a source of reproductions, I searched on the web and found two resources that offer reproductions of maps from 1898 and 1875:

Community Heritage Maps, at www.communityheritagemaps.com. This site has available reproductions of antique maps throughout New England, including the Town of Arlington. Community Heritage Maps provides high-quality replicas of detailed neighborhood maps based upon pre-1922 real estate and insurance maps. According to their website: "Insurance and real estate maps were developed to provide essential information for the real estate and insurance industries and now provides the reader with a record of neighborhood history including individual building footprints and structural information, ownership, urban landscaping, historical place names and ecological features.

"Community Heritage Maps produces these maps by using high level digital scanning and individual restorations to capture the original character of the maps including the lithograph process, hand lettering and individually hand applied colored tints that indicate land usage and individual building types such as: wood, brick, iron, or stone.

"These maps were working documents and consumers' access to them was limited to rare bookstores, de-acquisition sales at libraries, in-

urance or engineering firms. As working documents they were often marked up and are difficult to find in good condition that would be suitable for framing. Community Heritage Maps is dedicated to maintaining the unique character of the original maps." I ordered one of these maps of Arlington Center, which is rich in detail from 1898.

www.piperpublishing.com is the site for **Piper Publishing**. After locating the 1898 map, I was interested in finding a resource that offers reprints of the 1875 Arlington map, taken from the late 19th century Atlases of Massachusetts Counties and Local Maps, of F.W. Beers. These rare and detailed historical maps show schools, churches, and individual homes with owner's names. These complete facsimile atlases also include business directories, engravings of local landmarks, and more than 60 local and town plan historical maps for each Massachusetts county. Piper Publishing sells a CD-Rom of each Atlas (of Middlesex County, for example), as well as printed reproductions.

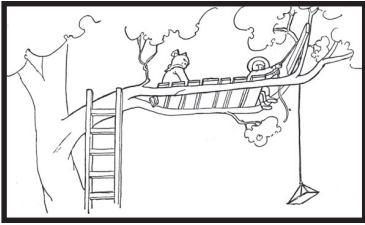
At the end of this research project, I have two stunning maps of historic Arlington, showing the details of Academy Street (where we live) as well as the entire town center and neighborhood. These are framed and hanging in our family room, a wonderful gift idea for the local history buff.



NEIGHBORHOODNEWSLETTER.ORG

Check out our web site for pictures related to this issue, updates for the Service Referral List, and much more.

The Neighborhood Newsletter is produced through generous contributions from neighbors.



TO BUILD A TREE HOUSE

By Cindy Starks (*Monadnock Road*)

When was the last time you climbed up and sat in a tree? For most of us, it's probably been longer than we can remember. But for those lucky enough to have a tree house, it can happen every day. Above the worries and cares of the world, a tree house gives us a new perspective, a place we can let our imaginations roam and somewhere to get away from it all. If you take the time to look up, you will find that our neighbors, inspired by their children, have created many such wonderful spaces.

Built around one massive tree in their backyard, Sasha's (age 5) and Scooter's (15 months) tree house towers over Arlington. As you climb the steps and emerge from the trap door, the view instantly takes your breath away. Not only do they have a beautifully unobstructed view of their Irving Street and Gray Street neighborhood, but on a clear night Sarah (their mom) told me that you could see the planes take off and land at Logan Airport. Although still under construction, the tree house will have a roof, shelves, and a suspension bridge over the fence to their neighbors' climbing structure when complete. Sarah told me that, "One of the greatest things about our tree house is that it has become a neighborhood project. Our neighbors are always coming over to check in on our progress and some even come by to help."

Tim's (11) tree house is a spacious 8x10 platform supported by four saplings, with walls of green construction netting and a plywood shelter roof. Entrance is gained from

a wooden ladder through a square hole in the floor, but there is a sliding board to descend in emergencies, if needed. Inspired years ago by an episode of "Arthur," Tim and his dad Vernon designed the tree house themselves and then constructed it with help from some neighbors. Although it doesn't get as much use as it once did, the platform still makes a perfect place to jump into a huge pile of leaves or to dump buckets of water on unsuspecting visitors.

Built from salvaged pieces of wood, windows; and flooring, Zachary's (7) and Noah's (4 1/2) tree house is completely enclosed and surrounded by trees. It is naturally lit, with sliding glass doors and windows of every shape and size, and there is even a brick chimney giving the illusion that you might find a fireplace inside. Fully furnished for the comfort and use of the elementary school set, it is painted inside and out in brilliant purple, salmon, seafarer blue, yellow, and mango (to name just a few colors). In the end they so loved the tree house color scheme that they have since repainted their entire house to match. Enter via the stairs or up the climbing wall, and from the porch you have a perfect view down the entire length of Academy Street. You can even make a clean escape back down the climbing wall or by taking the zip-line from the porch to other parts of the backyard.

Although each tree house is a unique creation, one thing that they all seem to have in common is the great sense of imagination they inspire in all of us. Whether you fly to

the moon, concoct potions, control the flight paths of jumbo jets, become a pirate on the seven seas, or defend your castle from an invasion of trolls, our neighborhood tree houses are some of the most amazing escapes we have around.



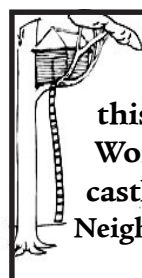
PAY AS YOU THROW

By Peter Howard
(*Woodland Street*)

We all know that recycling is good for the environment, but did you know that it also saves money? According to the final report from the Board of Selectmen's Pay As You Throw (PAYT) Study Committee, the cost per ton to collect and dispose of trash will be \$130 next year, while the cost to collect and dispose of recyclable material will be \$89.

John Sanchez, Public Works Director and committee chair, recently presented the report to the Board. The current solid waste program costs more than \$3 million per year and is supported by our property taxes. An average household pays \$160 yearly, regardless of the amount of trash it generates or the amount of recycling it carries out. In a PAYT program, residents would purchase special plastic bags for their trash at a price between \$1 and \$2. Otherwise the town's solid waste program would be the same. There would be no extra cost for recycling. This creates a financial incentive to recycle.

Such programs in other communities in Eastern Massachusetts and across the country have seen a reduction in solid waste of 20% or more. PAYT is also a more equitable way to pay for trash service - the more trash you throw out, the more you pay. The report details several possible programs with different costs and im-



See a couple of the tree houses from this article as well as the Worden's backyard castle on our website: Neighborhoodnewsletter.org

pacts on town revenues. In addition, the report describes PAYT programs in nearby communities. Copies are available from the Public Works Department.

The PAYT Study Committee was appointed by the Selectmen last spring in response to several articles presented to Town Meeting suggesting changes to the town's solid waste program. These articles were motivated by a need to increase town revenues to maintain our present level of service. The articles will be presented again this year. As neighbors and **Newsletter** readers, what do you think the town should do?



THE PLEASURE OF MENOTOMY ROCKS PARK: PAST AND PRESENT

By Miriam Ladd Davison
(Churchill Avenue)

I grew up in the Menotomy Rocks Park area and still reside there. My sister, our friends, and I would fish in Hill's Pond using a branch as a pole with a string attached as a line and a Christmas ornament hook for a fish hook. We actually caught fish but threw them back.

After school, we would walk my friend's cocker spaniel in the park and meet up with some of our school chums. In the winter, we would bring our skates and sit on the rocks around the pond to put them on. We skated all over the pond unless the hockey players claimed an area. We skated until our hands and feet were numb with cold. Then we would trudge home on our "ice block" feet, sit on the radiators, and drink hot cocoa to thaw out and get warm.

Coasting (sledding) down the hill near the children's play area was lots of fun. There was always a big bump of snow built near the bottom for skiers to use as a jump; but coasting on your stomach over the bump - what a belly whopper that was!

When my boys were young, the Cub Scouts had cookouts using the grills that used to be in the park. We called them "Weeny Roasts"; now they are cookouts or barbecues. Now I take my granddaughter on walks in the park. We swing on the swings (I swing too), feed the ducks, pick up colored leaves, and just sit on a bench and enjoy the peace, calm, and quiet. A treat for the eyes are the trees reflecting in the water, and the little ducks gliding over the water with the wakes following behind them.

Menotomy Rocks Park is truly an oasis in our busy world.

...We're always on the lookout for more neighborhood memory and reflection articles like this one. Please don't hesitate to send them in!



OUR E-NEIGHBORHOOD

By Mary Cummings (Jason Street)

I was introduced to e-mail by Clarissa Rowe and Charlotte Pierce in the early days of the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park. Most of their member communications, including board of directors discussions, have been electronic ever since. E-mail has been invaluable for **The Neighborhood Newsletter**. Having articles e-mailed to me saves hours of typing and editing. I can e-mail text to Bill so he can edit it himself instead of sending me hard copy editing corrections - our editing time is thus cut at least in half. We can e-mail the whole issue to Print Aspects for printing and Ken Lubar gets a zipped package for the web site. We're always looking for e-mailed ideas and articles.

Since it appears to be an integral part of most of our lives and has, I believe, enhanced the life of the neighborhood itself, I took an e-survey of neighbors on our Neighborhood Link List. We wanted to see what e-mailing neighbors think about this medium for their messages. I've summarized their responses.

How often do you check your e-mail?

With only a couple of exceptions, responders check e-mail at least daily and often several times each day. A couple of hard-core users check hourly and even "continuously." Generally, we check more often at work than at home. The least frequent check was four times per week. One responder wrote "Daily except when irretrievably behind (like now)."

How often do you use e-mail for social communication?

E-socializing ranged from three to six times per month "depending on when my wife e-mails me," through five to six times per week, to daily.

How often do you use e-mail to reach groups of people (organizations, etc.)?

Use of e-mail to reach groups ranges from occasionally through daily to several times each day.

What is your most common use of e-mail?

Business, family and friends are about tied for most common uses of e-mail with volunteer and committee work a close second. For example, one responder wrote, "Quick communications with friends, firming up plans, etc; to write to friends in foreign countries; contacting committees - minutes, agendas, reports, reminders."

How, if at all, has e-mail made your lives easier?

Ease and flexibility of communicating were the most prominently cited features. Responses included: "Send things fast, query a group instantly - like this survey!"; "A life saver for phone-phobes."; "Faster to get information and pass it along"; "Able to communicate at any time of day or night"; "It can be a

less intrusive way to reach people than telephone and one message can be broadcast. One can say more precisely what one means”; “Makes communications faster but not easier in the sense that there is much more information to deal with; some not worthwhile and yet time-consuming”; “Time and flexibility – added 100% to efficiency at least.”

What, if anything, bothers you about e-mail?

Predictably, spam was the most commonly cited bother but one person wrote “SPAM is a mild nuisance compared to phone solicitation.” Other botherations included, “The presumption that we’re always logged on and alert, and will respond instantly”, “I have become dependent, so when it’s down, I am helpless”, and “Some users are not careful to edit their messages so their meaning is garbled.”

Do you subscribe to the Arlington listserve? If so, what does it do for you?

Few of our responders use the listserve. Those who do reported, “I get it in digest; to offer donations, occasionally offer updates on school issues, general monitoring”. “It often clogs my mailbox with useless stuff. But, it has also come in handy for spreading the word about Spooky Walk, finding work for my teenagers, locating someone to fix my computer, etc.”, “It’s occasionally annoying but a great resource for referrals. It kind of acts like a community sounding board but the sniping can get pretty intense.”

The Arlington listserve can be found at <http://www.arlingtonlist.org/>

What impact do you think e-mail has had on the neighborhood community?

A few neighbors felt e-mail’s impact has been limited, but most responding to this e-survey see it as a valuable asset to the community. “More frequent communication brings people together”; “It is a very useful communication tool for meetings, progress on community projects”, “It sure makes things faster, and sometimes even better”; “It has helped create ties and improved communication. Maybe the

Newsletter should be electronic.”

Responders also noted that e-mail’s neighborhood impact is: “Enormous socially and politically, allowing the neighborhood to function with less in-person meeting time”; “It has added another dimension to how neighbors can keep in touch!” On downside was noted “It might be that it can take the place of face-to-face contact or a phone call.”

Comparing last issue’s survey on cell phone use to this study of e-mailing, it appears that we are generally more accepting and appreciative of e-mail as a less intrusive and highly efficient means of communication. I can’t help but wonder what we would know about John and Abigail Adams if they had e-mailed. Perhaps pen-and-paper technology will be the topic for our next survey. Do you have any great letters to share with us? **The Neighborhood Newsletter** is always happy to receive articles and ideas through all available media.



EXPANDING OUR HISTORIC DISTRICT

By Jane Becker
(Academy Street)

On January 6th, the Arlington Historic Districts Commission held a public hearing to consider the proposal to add Academy and Maple Streets to the Pleasant Street Historic District. This event reflects the efforts of Academy and Maple Street residents over the past year and a half.

In 2003, neighbors met informally to explore the possibility of including properties on Academy and Maple Streets in the Historic District. Based upon favorable consensus coming out of two informal neighborhood meetings, and with the support of the Arlington Historical Commission, neighbors requested that the Arlington His-

toric Districts Commission (AHDC) establish a Local Historic District Study Committee, which it did at its meeting of July 24, 2003.

Then, in the summer of 2004, extensive research efforts undertaken in consultation with local historian Richard Duffy led to the production of a Draft Preliminary Report. Led by Academy Street residents Jane Becker and Miriam Levine, a team of neighbors prepared architectural descriptions of the properties while Mr. Duffy undertook research on individual structures and the neighborhood. A copy of the draft report is available for download at the AHDC’s website, www.arlingtonhistoricdistrict.com.

Following the public hearing, it is expected that a warrant article for the expansion will be submitted for consideration by the Annual Town Meeting in April, 2005. *(Editor’s Note: At the January 6th hearing, attended by several dozen residents, the AHDC approved the expansion proposal by unanimous vote.)*

Arlington is fortunate in having a wide array of historically and/or architecturally significant buildings and landscapes from the eighteenth to the first half of the twentieth centuries, including the properties clustered in the seven established Local Historic Districts. Although the properties in these districts vary in age, style, and level of ornamentation, all reflect Arlington’s rich history. For over 25 years, Local Historic District status has proven to be one of the most effective tools in the informed preservation of Arlington’s historical resources. The Arlington Historic District Commissions, which oversee the seven existing Local Historic Districts, work with property owners to ensure that the Town’s historic buildings will continue to tell us of our past, while meeting our present needs.

Presently, the impressive grouping of historic structures that grace Academy and Maple Streets are supported by interested property owners and the Arlington Historical Commission, under

whose jurisdiction Academy and Maple Streets fall as part of the Arlington Center National Register Historic District. Such designation indicates historical importance, but offers limited protection from incongruous changes, incompatible development, and demolition of significant structures. The proposal to expand the Pleasant Street Historic District to include Academy and Maple Streets brings to full circle the efforts that began over 30 years ago to promote the preservation of this exceptional group of architecturally significant properties and their historic streetscapes.

This project has come to fruition through the cooperation and support of many neighbors and property owners. We already knew what a great group of neighbors we had and how privileged we were to live among them; this effort has reminded us of that again. This project has also given us opportunities to work with each other, learn more about our historical resources, and protect the unique historical landscape that contributes so much to the quality of life in Arlington.

If you have any questions about historic district designation or about the process of expanding the Pleasant Street Historic District to include the properties on Academy and Maple Streets, please contact Jane Becker at (781) 643-5932, or Stephen Makowka, Chairperson of the Arlington Historic District Commissions, at (781) 316-3265.



THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS SOURCE OF SUPPORT

By Bill Berkowitz (*Pelham Terrace*)

On the first of this year a Boston Globe article described what our world might look like in 2050: Today's store sales will illuminate our dashboards. Sensors in our clothing will monitor

our health. Vaccines will prevent tooth decay. 80-year-olds will be the new 60, that sounds pretty good. More adult children will be living with their parents – not sure about that one.

If we think the world is changing fast today, then stick around, because according to some experts we may be entering the golden age of biotechnology, where if anything the pace will pick up. Even if it doesn't, as we've learned to our joy and sorrow, one of the few certainties in life is that change is a given.

But are some things not likely to change? The value of neighborhood life might be one of them. The need for social contact among those living near us, the sense that we belong to a neighborhood and larger community, that's unlikely to fade. It seems to be part of our human nature. Some think it's wired in.

Our need for social contact and support has been extensively documented. In one classic California study 25 years ago, since replicated cross-culturally, researchers measured the strength of people's social networks. Those with stronger support networks were found not only to be healthier, both physically and emotionally, but also to live longer, literally, by a margin of several years. In different domains, social support has been linked to lower crime, to greater feelings of security, to better outcomes for kids, and to economic development as well.

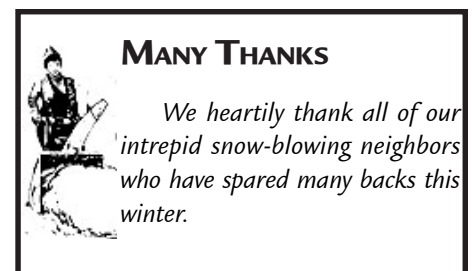
Support and contact of course needn't come from the neighborhood or community. Family, friends, workplaces, churches, recreational groups, sometimes virtual communities can do the job. Yet the neighborhood has special advantages in this respect: it's convenient; it's free; it belongs to everyone; it's always there when you walk out the door. What's more, living in a close neighborhood simply feels good. It brightens our lives. Under the right conditions, our social relationships with neighbors can bring out our best qualities as human beings.

What does this mean for us, riding a wave into the future? Without such support, we will survive, we'll be okay, for humans are resilient. But we are vulnerable at the same time; that's part of our nature too. There won't be a tsunami in our neighborhood, as far as we can tell. Still, we are shaped by events of the world, a fair-sized list of them, many beyond our control.

A strong neighborhood, I think, can safeguard us against adverse events. In that sense, it's a form of social security, at least as important in its way as that we might get from the government. In this neighborhood system, we already have our own private accounts. They're not guaranteed, though; they are only as large as the social contributions we put into them.

Yet there's no limit on what those contributions might be. We can draw upon our account any time. There's no penalty for early withdrawals. And we can control the benefits we receive: the more we put in, the more we can take out. With everyone contributing a modest amount, this social security system can never go bankrupt. It will last us a lifetime.

That's one main reason I've believed in the value of the neighborhood. If nothing else, it's a wise investment of our resources. The other reason, a sunnier reason, is the simple pleasure and joy of living in a caring community. We don't know what the future will bring in 2050, or in 2005 for that matter. But we do know that we can enrich our own little space on the earth. The potential is there for us to create a neighborhood that will bring us more support and affirmation, more happiness and satisfaction, than we might ever have imagined.



OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AUTHORS (CONTINUED)



In our last issue, we showcased some of our neighborhood authors, of which there are many. Would you be surprised that we missed a few? Here are just a few more that have come to our attention – it's a pleasure to give them the mention they deserve.

* If you're a parent, present or future, you might find that **The Rewards of Parenting** by Alfred Koumans will give you positive reinforcement. Dr. Koumans, a psychiatrist and a long-time resident of Valley Road, provides a unique perspective, showing how our children can influence our own development and growth as adults. Have you ever considered that "Parents can be rewarded when they become partners with their child in a joint enterprise"? You may indeed be rewarded by reading this book, available from the author at a specially discounted price of \$12, or through Rutledge Books at 1-800-278-8533, or www.rutledgebooks.com.

* If you're a fish enthusiast, in whatever form, your enthusiasm should be heightened by reading **Inland Fishes of Massachusetts** by Karsten Hartel of Brunswick Road, recently published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. In this book you'll find detailed accounts, distribution maps, and color photos of all 83 native fish species, both common and exotic, provided by one of the foremost authorities in the field. For details, contact (781) 259-2136, or www.massaudubon.org.

* And if you're a train buff, we need to mention the booklet on the history of the Lexington and West Cambridge Railroad, by John Worden (Jason Street), a local historian, Town Meeting Member, and our Town Moderator. Do you remember when trains ran through Arlington Center? – it wasn't all that long ago. John's booklet, available at the Smith Museum on Jason Street, will tell you about all that and more.

...The last chapter in this **Newsletter** feature has probably not been written. So if there are other authors among you – or if there are other profiles you'd like to see, just be in touch.

NEIGHBORHOODNEWSLETTER.ORG



Check out our web site for pictures related to this issue, updates for the Service Referral List, and much more.

CONTACT THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

We always welcome your letters, articles, or suggestions, as well as any donations you might be able to make. To contact Mary Cummings, Editor:

Write to: 135 Jason St.

E-mail: Jhitesnews@comcast.net

Phone: 781-641-0954

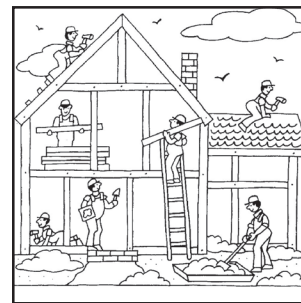
Web Site: Neighborhoodnewsletter.org

To make a contribution to **The Neighborhood Newsletter**: Make checks payable to "Menotomy Rocks Neighborhood Association" and send to Bill Berkowitz at 12 Pelham Terrace. Thank you for your support!

STUDY WITH US AT JASON HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

Andrea Davis, professional chef, would consider running a cooking class for a few of us, and we think there might be others among our talented neighbors who would be willing to share information or skills with the rest of us for a nominal fee.

Would you be interested in teaching or learning with neighbors? Let us know your thoughts about this idea.



NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE REFERRAL LIST

The service providers listed on the next page have been recommended by neighbors. We will try to keep the list up to date on our web page, which is skillfully maintained by Ken Lubar (Gray Street):

www.neighborhoodnewsletter.org. There are several new additions to the list which are marked with a *.

We have had many requests for handymen and a few for chimney repair services. If you can recommend these or any other service providers, or have experienced difficulties contacting or working with providers on this list, please contact us through the web page or by e-mailing jhitesnews@comcast.net.