

OCNA news

Vol 32, No 4 Winter, 2023

The OLD CATONSVILLE Neighborhood Association, INC.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE -

OCNA's 30th Year Celebration.....	1	OCNA Article Archives.....	5
OCNA News First Issue.....	2	Upcoming Events.....	6
Black Walnut Bonanza	3	Pay Your OCNA Dues on PayPal.....	6
Local Business Corner: Painted Whims	4		

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF OCNA!

What year did you join OCNA? I was looking at old issues of the OCNA News and realized it has been 30 years since OCNA formed and the newsletter was started. Sometime in the past, the numbering of the newsletter issues must have gone awry. Next year perhaps, we'll start fresh with Volume 31 again.

On the next page see what the first issue of OCNA News looked like. We are grateful for all that OCNA has done for our neighborhood since 1993. We're excited for the continuation of OCNA and the newsletter. We're calling all writers, wordsmiths, and people with opinions to write regular columns or occasional stories on whatever topic interests them. The newsletter is interested in printing the thoughts, experiences, and memories of any and all of our residents. If you're interested, please contact Ann Quinn at annandsteves@gmail.com.

Several of our wonderful regular writers have moved, retired, or no longer have time to contribute as often. If you have an idea you would like to share, we would be delighted to accept your written words, help you with organization or editing, or come to you and write it down for you.

This newsletter is a community effort and features stories written by residents of Old Catonsville. There have been regular columns on dining out in the area, entertainment such as reviews of movies and books, gardening, house restoration, and nature over the years. We also like to feature news about residents and community events.

Recently, we sent out a survey about the newsletter and received positive responses from our community. Our neighbors are reading the newsletter. Many didn't know that it's available online. Some people want to contribute to the issues. One resident noted recently that the newsletter is one of the standout features of our neighborhood.

Every three months (or sometimes longer), I take the stories Ann sends me that we have received or written and assemble them into this newsletter. I moved here in 2001 and have been helping with the newsletter since 2008. It has been great fun to read the articles and learn about Old Catonsville's past, local businesses, historic homes, flora and fauna, and things that occasionally go bump (or screech!) in the night.

If anyone would like to help us out as editor-in-chief or designer for the newsletter, we would be grateful to have you join us. It would be nice to share the issue creation among a few people so that no one has too much work to do.

If you would like to write an article but need help with ideas, here are a few recent suggestions from the newsletter team:

- A number of oak trees in the neighborhood are dying, and a recent problem has been cropping up in azaleas (scales?)
- Students recount their return-to-school experiences
- Creating a list of OCNA volunteer experts would be worthwhile, e.g. on gardening, statistics, architecture, whatever
- Any ghost stories from the old houses in the neighborhood?
- Tales of old house renovation
- Gardening, or nature
- Stories from OCNA residents
- Book, movie, restaurant, local activity reviews

If you have contacts at area businesses that might like to advertise in the newsletter, please let us know. Advertising in two issues is only \$75. ■

by Christina Drews-Leonard

Please submit articles or ideas, events & news for the Spring issue by March 15th to Ann by email annandsteves@gmail.com or call: 410-747-4920

THE FIRST ISSUE OF OCNA NEWS, MARCH 1993



Newsletter

Spring Edition, March 1993

Vol.1 No. 1

OCNA Forms! Newsletter Debuts! Neighbors Show Their Support!

We are pleased to present the first quarterly issue of our neighborhood newsletter. In this and future editions we intend to use the publication to inform you of issues affecting the community and the resources available to it.

It is our hope that all of our readers will alert us to events, people or issues that may be of interest to all of us.

Money generated through advertisers will help offset production costs. We want to welcome our advertisers, thank them for supporting us, and encourage everyone to support them.

If you have a story idea, a suggestion or want to submit a letter to the editor, please address your correspondence to: **Editor, OCNA Newsletter**

102 Smithwood Avenue
Catonsville, MD 21228

or use the coupon provided on the back page of this issue. Checks for ads should be made out to OCNA. We hope everyone will enjoy our first effort.

OCNA Formation Generates Neighborhood Accolades

"This is a wonderful idea - something that has been needed for years".

"My wife and I really think it's a neat idea and we'll support it".

"We feel it is an excellent time to do so while we have such a pleasant and tranquil area. Our homes and the obvious pride we take in them are the envy of those who merely pass thru".

"My husband and I are pleased to see the Association forming".

"We are grateful for those people who devote their time and effort for our neighborhood".

"Please let us know if there is anything else we should do to participate".

Thank you for all your letters of support!

OCNA Sponsors Crime Prevention Meeting

Sixty residents attended an informative lecture sponsored by the OCNA on crime and safety Feb. 23, 1993 at the Hillcrest Elementary School. Officer Michael Darcey of the Wilkens Precinct offered recommendations on protecting property and personal safety. He suggested the neighborhood participate in the national NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH program, a three-

step project aimed at making neighborhoods safer. Officer Darcey also discussed personal safety. He advised residents to be aware of their surroundings and if possible, travel with a companion. He reported that 90% of assaults, purse snatchings and muggings occur when the victim is traveling alone.

Neighbors were advised to be extremely observant of each other's property. If anything out of the ordinary occurs, you are encouraged to call the neighbor or 911. To do nothing may make the difference, especially to the victims.

At the conclusion of the meeting Scott Whitney, Bob Barbagallo, and Rick Stuthman agreed to form a Safety and Crime Committee and implement the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH program. If you would like more information call Scott Whitney at 788-5557.

Neighborhood Watch Program

The Crime and Safety Committee is attempting to establish a Neighborhood Watch program in our community. In order to participate, groups of neighbors must get together so a Crime Prevention Officer from the County Police can talk to them. Neighbors must agree to mark their own property, practice the basics of sound residential security, and watch out for suspicious activities. If 60 percent of the residents agree to participate, "Neighborhood Watch": signs are posted and individual stickers are supplied to participating households.

BLACK WALNUT BONANZA

This year saw a record harvest of black walnuts in my neighbors Jacques and Mary Jane LeVasseur's backyard. They gathered over 20 bags using a new rolling tool to ease the pickup process. The black walnut tree in their neighbor's backyard is a beautiful shade tree that also has a swing on a branch overhanging the LeVasseur's yard that is ready for the neighborhood children to enjoy. But, it's a big chore to pick up and dispose of the hard round green shell encasings that litter the grass and can even be a lawn mower hazard.

Today, they mainly put the walnuts out for yard waste pickup or offer them to neighbors who want to try eating them. However, when he was a child in the Cincinnati suburbs, Jacques used to gather black walnuts in the nearby woods with his friends. There they would crack the outer husks off using a stick and a flat rock. The shells are very hard and opening the nuts can cause an almost permanent stain. They are tasty like English walnuts but more work to get the nut out of the shell.

Once they brought the nuts home, they stored them in onion bags which allowed the air to circulate through them, and put them on the roof outside their window. In the winter evenings when they didn't have much to do they would spend time cracking them and getting the nuts out of the shells. Then his mom would make fudge and add the nuts for a delicious treat for all of the family to enjoy. ■

by Christina Drews-Leonard

Black Walnut Shelling Tips

I found some tips to make getting the nuts out of the shell easier on this website: <https://practicalselfreliance.com/cracking-black-walnuts/>

- Husk the nuts as soon as possible after harvesting
- Clean the black walnuts as best you can
- Lay the black walnuts out in a well ventilated spot to allow them to dry (in a place safe from rodents and squirrels)
- Once they've dried for a week or two, store nuts in a place with good airflow to continue to dry until they start to split open on their own
- Gently pry the nuts open at the seam with a nut pick, small screwdriver or pocket knife
- Using this method, you should be able to pull out whole nut meat, or halves, instead of the small shards you'd get if you cracked them with brute force.



Black Walnut and English Walnut
By Eiku - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=72785300>

15-Minute Chocolate Walnut Fudge

Here's a quick recipe for walnut fudge. You can use regular or black walnuts. Let me know how it turns out if you make it.

From Cook's Illustrated - Shared from this website <https://www.onceuponachef.com/recipes/15-minute-chocolate-walnut-fudge.html>

Servings: 2½ pounds (36-64 squares, depending on how large you cut them)
Prep Time: 10 Minutes
Cook Time: 5 Minutes
Total Time: 15 Minutes, plus 2 hours to chill

INGREDIENTS

- 16 ounces semisweet chocolate, best quality such as Ghirardelli, coarsely chopped
- 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate, best quality such as Ghirardelli, coarsely chopped
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

INSTRUCTIONS

Line an 8-inch square baking dish with aluminum foil, pushing the foil neatly into the corners and up the sides of the pan, using two pieces if necessary to ensure that the foil overlaps all edges (the overhang will help removal from the pan). Spray the foil with nonstick cooking spray.

Toss the chocolates, baking soda, and salt in a medium heatproof bowl until baking soda is evenly distributed. Stir in sweetened condensed milk and vanilla. Set the bowl over a 4-quart saucepan containing 2 cups of simmering water. Stir with a rubber spatula until the chocolate is almost fully melted and just a few small pieces remain, 2 to 4 minutes. (Make sure to remove the fudge from the double boiler before the chocolate is fully melted. If the chocolate stays in the double boiler too long, there is the possibility of the chocolate separating and producing a greasy fudge.)

Remove the bowl from the heat and continue to stir until the chocolate is fully melted and the mixture is smooth, about 2 minutes. Stir in the walnuts. Transfer the fudge to the prepared pan and spread into an even layer with the spatula. Refrigerate until set, about 2 hours. Remove the fudge from the pan using the foil overhang and cut into squares. Store the fudge, tightly wrapped in plastic, in a cool place for up to 2 weeks.

LOCAL BUSINESS CORNER: PAINTED WHIMS

The new Painted Whims Store which opened a few months ago on Frederick Road is packed with lots of tasteful home goods and holiday gifts. It's located in the building which was the former location of the The Pottery Cove, which moved across the street. Proud owner Bridgette Callahan stocks many sustainable items made by local artists in addition to the beautiful hand-painted furniture she creates. Specialty paint is also available if you wish to DIY a piece of furniture. I bought some blue paint to try painting an old desk. Luckily, it came with some painting advice so I'm hopeful the project will go well.

Painted Whims (443) 636-5025
827 Frederick Rd, Catonsville, MD 21228
<https://www.paintedwhims.com/>
Open Thursday-Saturday from 10:00am-6:00pm
and on Sunday from 12:00pm-6:00pm. ■

by Christina Drews Leonard



OCNA ARTICLE ARCHIVES:

The porch ceiling of Charley and Rena Davis's house on Rosewood Avenue offers a rare patch of blue on a grey March day, a hopeful and comforting sign amid late winter's rubble.



The custom of painting porch ceilings blue points to Catonsville's double identity as an early Victorian retreat and nineteenth century village. At the Davis home, the ceiling announces one family's quiet steadfastness over a century of often dizzying change.

"In 1915 my dad built this house. He owned the house until 1956. My wife and I got married in 1939, and we lived upstairs until 1956. In 1956, my dad sold the place to my wife and me. About five years ago, I sold it to my son and daughter-in-law, who live upstairs, with an agreement that they let us stay here the rest of our lives."

Charley Davis spent many of his younger years near the vortex of Catonsville - operating a garage and gas station at the southernmost point of Edmondson Avenue, a quarter-mile east of Rolling Road, at the spot then and now called the Junction. Today, the comings and goings at Joe Chilcoat's 7-Eleven echo the hum of a half-century prior, when the numbers 8 and 14 streetcars swung as partners around the town's northeast edge.

Back then the Junction linked residents, transit passengers, and shopkeepers in the daily business of staying abreast of the village's business. Charley Davis recalls that "In those days, because you knew everybody, you didn't need a neighborhood association. When I was fifteen years old, I could name every person on each side of the street."

After the streetcar tracks were pulled up, some of Catonsville's common ground eroded. But according to Mr. Davis, other means of staying informed have emerged. 'As a matter of fact, this association (OCNA), I think, is a progressive idea and a very good idea, because it brings people together. Then they have a better understanding of their mutual problems.

A small job first offered to one of the Davis's three sons has over the past twenty years turned into steady retirement work, printing cards, letterhead, tickets, and announcements for local families, civic organizations, offices, and funeral homes. It's a neighborly enterprise, advertised through word of mouth, putting a few old printing presses to work doing a neighborhood's business of announcing the new and remembering what has passed on.

This work and the obvious pride Mr. Davis takes in it belie the notion that the Davises, like many other of the neighborhood's longstanding residents, have retreated from the waves of change that have swept the area since the 1950s. In their quiet way, Charley and Rena Davis have helped the changes to come, announcing the births of new households and the demise of others. The blue sky that always smiles on their porch is a sign of welcome for each new day as well as as a reminder of days gone by. ■

By Charley Camp

This article was originally printed in March, 1994.

About the author: Charley Camp has lived in Catonsville since 1977, and presently works as State Folklorist at the Maryland State Arts Council. Dr. Camp teaches folklore, baseball and other subjects at Johns Hopkins University, and coordinates the oral history project of the Friends of Catonsville Library. He and his wife Andrea and children Zoe and Nicholas live on Beaumont Avenue. His articles on conversations with neighborhood residents are a regular feature of the OCNA News.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 9th OCNA Board Meeting

March 15 Articles/Ads Due for OCNA News

April 13: OCNA Yard Sale Primary Date

April 14: OCNA Yard Sale Rain Date

April 20: OCNA Clean Up Day

Other Events:

The Children's Home Holiday Giving Program

Drop off: Saturday, December 16, 2023 (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

The Children's Home <https://www.thechildrenshome.net/holiday/>
205 Bloomsbury Ave

Baltimore Classical Guitar Society Open Stage

January 21, 2024 and March 17, 2024 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Catonsville Presbyterian Church

1400 Frederick Rd

Song Circle

Dec 20, 2023, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Join us on the 2nd- 5th Wednesdays of each month for singing and fun at the Catonsville Clubhouse.

The Clubhouse in Catonsville, 10 St Timothys Ln

Poetry and Prose

Dec 21, 2023, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

The Clubhouse, 10 St Timothys Ln

PAY YOUR OCNA DUES WITH PAYPAL

OCNA now accepts Paypal! Eager to pay your dues as part of this great community but unused to writing checks?

Send your \$20 with the click of a button to
oldcatonsville@gmail.com



Cash and checks still gladly accepted—
payable to OCNA Membership, 16 Osborne Ave.,
Catonsville MD 21228 with 2023 on the memo line

Advertise Your Business to the Old Catonsville Neighborhood STARTING AT ONLY \$75 FOR 2 ISSUES!

Space available in the next issue.

1/8 page ad

3.75" wide x 2.375" high

\$75 / year / 2 Issues

1/4 page ad

3.75" wide x 4.75" high

\$100 / year

Deadlines to submit ads to get into the next issue (usually flexible):

Next Issue March 15

Spring/Summer issue:
March 15

Fall/Winter issue:
September 15

Contact Allison Dietz, allisonnoz@hotmail.com for more information.

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- Review this issue to see the types of ads that we run for local businesses.
- Choose ad size.
- Supply artwork in black and white. Please supply high resolution artwork for your ad. If you need help creating your ad contact us. Ads have to be reviewed before they're approved.
- You must have permission to use any images in your ads.
- Proofread your ad for errors.
- Payment accepted via check or Paypal. Ad must be paid in full before it can run.
- You can start advertising at any time of the year. Updated artwork can be provided for current ads by the next issue deadline.

Contact Allison Dietz,
allisonnoz@hotmail.com for information.

Deadlines to submit newsletter articles and ads to get into the next issue (usually flexible):

Spring/Summer issue - March 15
Fall/Winter issue- September 15

Archived copies of the OCNA Newsletter are now available on <https://www.oldcatonsville.org/connect>

Do you want free advertising? Volunteer to write for the newsletter regularly and live in Old Catonsville, get a free 1/8 page ad in each issue.

1/8 page ad size:
3.75" wide x 2.375" high
\$75 / year

1/4 page ad size:
3.75" wide x 4.75" high
\$100 / year

1/3 page ad
(not shown)
\$200 / year
7.5" wide x 3.25" high



Photo by Jamie Coupaud on Unsplash

Upcoming in OCNA

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