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From: Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization <info@munjoyhill.org>

To: info@munjoyhill.org

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 05:15:04 PM EDT

Subject: Hill House Reopens for Community Events

Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization

92 Congress Street

Portland, Maine 04101

info@munjoyhill.org

September 13, 2022



Proudly serving Portland's Munjoy Hill neighborhood since 1979.

MHNO Decides to Reopen for Indoor, In-Person Community Events

The MHNO headquarters, sometimes known as the Hill House, located at 92 Congress Street, is gradually reopening for community events. Largely closed down during the Covid-19 Pandemic, it is seeing increased action this fall.

The transition has been gradual. The first break from remote, Zoom events came in the form of warmer weather outdoor events held in the front yard (several outdoor Masks and Music events, a hyper-local plant sale, etc.). Those were followed in 2022 by hybrid events in which some inside activity was combined with outdoor socializing, such as this past summer's First Friday events.

As the weather cools, the opportunities for outdoor events become more limited. The difficult decision to return to indoor in-person events was made at the September 12th MHNO Board of Directors meeting.

The first fully indoor event is scheduled for this Sunday, September 18th. A social time for knitters, crocheters and all hand needlecrafters, envisioned as the first monthly event, is scheduled for 3-5 pm. Please join the group! All levels of needlecrafters welcome! Bring a project to work on while you chat with your creative neighbors.



HILL HOUSE: READY TO REOPEN

What is that funny little building at the corner of Congress and Atlantic Streets? Owned by the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization since the mid-1980s, it formerly served as an combined office for a social service agency and as the community policing substation for the Portland Police Department.

Admittedly, it is a small space. But it has a medium-sized meeting room, a small bathroom, another small room and storage space. It is centrally located for the neighborhood. Due to recent stewardship efforts, it has a new roof, a refurbished heater, and well-maintained grounds, beautified by volunteers.

Various Boards of Directors have had different visions of what the building could become. Several years ago, those visions included an ambitious exploration of the possibility of adding to the long term housing supply by constructing a couple of upper story dwelling units. That vision did not pan out.

The pandemic-tempered goals of the current Board are more modest: to reinvigorate the space as a community events venue. The goal is to reknit the social fabric and give neighbors the opportunity to connect in person as we emerge from various levels of self-imposed distancing.

In the coming months, you are likely to see many more small events and interest groups using the space. As the Hill House reawakens, please join us as we work on finding the "new normal". If you have ideas for the Board to consider, please write to info@munjoyhill.org.

As part of the effort to enliven the space, the next meeting of the MHNO Board of Directors will shift back to an in-person format at the MHNO office. That meeting will be October 3rd at 6:00 pm.

First Friday events are planned for October 7th and November 4th, both from 5-8 at the Hill House. These First Friday events usually feature neighborhood artists, artisans and craftspeople. If you are interested in displaying and/or selling your family-friendly creations, please reach out to MHNO selection committee chair, Carol Connor at balsamique@live.com and include 2-3 pdf images of your work. Space is limited so don't delay.

Watch for more information about events, meet the author sessions, support groups, and more.



IN THE SPIRIT FOR HALLOWEEN 2022? ITS UP TO YOU!

Interested in helping to plan a Sunday October 30th Munjoy Hill neighborhood event in possible conjunction with MHNO, Friends of Fort Sumner Park and other community groups? Do you think the East End should have its own community Halloween celebration?

A committee is currently assessing level of interest and willingness to help. This is your chance to get involved in something fun and creative! If you are interested, please email President Maggy Wolf at info@munjoyhill.org.

The photo below, **from a prior year**, shows what could happen again if there is enough interest. This is **not yet a reality for 2022**. More information to come if circumstances warrant.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

The next monthly business meeting of the 13-members of the Board of Directors of the MHNO will be held on Monday, October 3rd at 6:00 p.m. As an experiment, the October Board meeting will be held in-person at the MHNO headquarters, also known as the Hill House, 92 Congress Street. If you are a member of the MHNO and are interested in sitting in on the Board of Director's meeting, please join us. Masks are still appropriate. Please follow CDC safety guidelines.

To join or rejoin as a member, please visit www.munjoyhill.org and click on "Join Us."

Hope to see you soon,

Maggy Wolf
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President

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