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**From:** Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization <[info@munjoyhill.org](mailto:info@munjoyhill.org)>

**To:** "Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization" <[info@munjoyhill.org](mailto:info@munjoyhill.org)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 08:40:20 PM EDT

**Subject:** We've got a date on Friday afternoon!



**THIS**



**FRIDAY**

**Meet Your Candidates for the MHNO Board  
of  
Directors and then,**

**LET'S MINGLE!**

The Munjoy Hill Neighborhood  
Organization Annual Meeting  
& Neighborhood Mixer

**~ FRIDAY ~**

6:00pm ~ 7:30 pm

St. Lawrence Arts Side Yard  
Congress at Munjoy Streets

**Join Us for Our Annual Meeting,  
Board Elections  
& Neighborhood Mixer!**

## **Food/Snacks \* Cold Beer \* Updates & More**

Beginning at 6pm on Friday, we have a bit of business to take care of so we figured, 'why not make a good time out of it'? So please join us for our annual meeting & updates on what we've done, what we're planning and the state of the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization.

We'll elect our new, 2019/2020 members of the MHNO Board of Directors as well as hold elections for President and Vice President of the Organization. That's right, we're headed for big changes and we want you to be a part of it all!

As always, we're inviting everyone, whether you're a member or not so come on over. We'd love to see you!

We'll be voting to fill vacancies on the eight open seats of our Board of Directors. The nominations period closed last Friday evening and we're excited to introduce you to the following member candidates!

### **Candidates for the MHNO Board of Directors to serve a two-year term 2019-2021 (Eight To Be Chosen)**

**Peter Blackstone  
Mary Casale  
Edwin Chester\*  
Carle Henry\*  
Peter Murray  
Jaime Parker\*  
Nina Schmir  
Carolyn Swartz  
Karen Snyder  
Maggy Wolf**

*\* Incumbent*

## A Bit About The Candidates

Each candidate will introduce themselves prior to the election.

A vote for 2019/2020 President & Vice President will also take place.

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**PETER BLACKSTONE:** My name is Peter Blackstone. My wife Katlyn and I live at 76 Cumberland Ave, a two family house I purchased in November, 1979.

I'm a retired Portland elementary school teacher, who started as long-term sub at the Jack School and ended my career teaching in the Many Rivers program at Hall School. I now work as a musician, playing accordion and guitar in the Maine Squeeze, Mainely Folk, and the Casco Bay Tango Project.

Besides music, my other passion is growing plants. We have beautiful gardens at our home and my daughter Elke, who lives in our house next door, and I have a community garden plot on North Street. I grow succulents and orchids year round in my house and am currently the President of the Maine Orchid Society.

You might see me walking all around the Hill with our black and white miniature poodles, or bicycling around the East End Trail.

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### MARY WESTPORT

**CASALE:** I'm a homeowner on Waterville St for over 40 years, (a 4th generation Munjoy Hill resident) and was on the Board of MHNO 30 years ago! I believe in giving back to your community when you can and however you can . We all have something to contribute. I've always loved my neighborhood and the many wonderful families who have lived here . I am a Registered Nurse at Mercy Hospital- I'm an avid gardener, enjoy biking and kayaking, take great

delight in repurposing vintage items, and just love spending time with my five grandchildren.

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**NED CHESTER:** Ned is a founding member of the MHNO and his signature shows up on our original Articles of Incorporation. He's currently finishing a four-year term, has served eight years in the past and was the MHNO President from 1980-1981.

Ned is married to another founding and current Board member, Barbara Vestal. He loves sailing and historical fiction, home repair jobs (!), gardening, hanging out with Barbara and with his two sons and grandchildren. Ned has been a dedicated resident of Munjoy Hill since 1977 and splits his time between

their home on Fore Street and the offices of the law firm he and Barbara founded, Chester and Vestal on Congress Street.

Ned is a respected attorney, specializing in representing juvenile defendants and advocating for programs and policy improvements in the juvenile justice systems at the local, state and national levels. He chairs the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group which helps to fund Maine's Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force.



**CARLE HENRY:** Carle is completing his first six-months on the MHNO Board after being appointed by the Board to fulfill the remainder of a former Board member's term. During that time he has advocated strongly on behalf of a variety of community issues and has never missed a meeting or committee commitment.

A resident of St. Lawrence Street, Carle has been on the Hill for seven years. He is the owner of his own consulting company, is a lifelong Mainer and loves to travel.

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**PETER**

**MURRAY:** Peter has lived on Munjoy Hill since 2013 and shares his North Street home with wife Deborah. He is a highly regarded attorney and law professor and enjoys writing, sailing and travel. When asked what he feels is most important in neighborhood community service his reply was, "I've spent fifty years of being active in Portland neighborhood organizations. If we want to bring out the

best in our neighborhood, we need to work for it, together!"

When he isn't working, Mr. Murray spends a lot of time with his two dogs, Percy and Pippa and the couple's cat, Nanook.

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**JAIME PARKER:** Jaime is one of the Hill's best known and well-liked neighbors. He currently serves as Vice President of the MHNO and is seeking his second consecutive term as a Board member and VP. He formerly served on the Board and has also lead the Organization as its President.

Jaime is the dad to two teenage boys who, like their pop, are excellent skateboarders. Jaime is the Director of Trails for Portland

Trails and has been instrumental in extending and developing new trail systems throughout the area. Along with Jay Norris and Paula Agopian, Jaime has been helping to lead the effort to extend and improve the Mountfort Path which we hope will be a recognized City trail very soon. Jaime has been a strong advocate for affordable, low-income and workforce housing, most recently leading the MHNO discussions with the new owners/developers of the Munjoy South housing units. From grilling hotdogs at neighborhood events to beautifying the garden at the MHNO Hill House, Jaime been one of Munjoy Hill's greatest assets and an exemplary neighbor.



**NINA SCHMIR:** Nina would be a first-time Board member but has been a member of the MHNO for a few years. She is a longtime resident of Congress St and loves running, singing, playing and writing music.

Nina is well known locally for her teaching of French and for being a translator. She's an active part of the Common Share Community Garden group on the East End and often praises the work of Cultivating Community which helped bring it to life. Nina describes her favorite pastimes as walking all over Portland as well as hiking Acadia and the Santa Monica mountains of California. She also has an artistic talent for taking photos out of airplane windows!



**CAROLYN SWARTZ:** Carolyn and her husband Wayne, another MHNO Board member, moved to the Hill just a few years ago and have been lovingly restoring the former Trott family home on Merrill Street. Carolyn is a lover of the arts and has already immersed herself into Portland's arts community. She's a serious cook who loves working out, re-learning Bach preludes and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. Carolyn is an accomplished pianist as well.

A little more about Carolyn in her own words: "We bought our house four summers ago, and I've been more back than forth for the past two years until October, 2018, when I finally moved out of Manhattan completely. I'm still pinching myself that I'm lucky enough to be living here on Munjoy Hill, Merrill Street, where everything that's right and wrong about the Hill come together in a few blocks.

I'm a writer, filmmaker, and creative/content strategist. My writing appears regularly in ZEST (Maine) magazine, and in addition to food writing, I've written pieces on the consumer's role in sustainable fishing and Emily Isaacson, Maine's Artist of the Year, and director of the Portland Bach Experience. My personal essays have been published in The New York Times, Chicago Tribune and other newspapers and magazines around the country.

I hope to bring these skills to MHNO. With my flawed French, I'm volunteering to help newcomers from the Congo acclimate to Portland.

I love my morning walks with Molly, our dog to East End Beach and along the East End trail. What a place to live: we'd be crazy not to do everything we can to protect the feel and charm of this wonderful neighborhood.

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**KAREN SNYDER:** Karen would also be a new member of the Board but has been well known to the MHNO and throughout the City of Portland for a number of years due to her passion and advocacy of the Hill.

Karen is an avid and trained beekeeper & a master gardener specializing in organic gardening. She owns properties on both Portland's East End and West End and loves renovating old buildings and cooking.

She's been a resident of Waterville Street for twelve years and is a data migration consultant. Karen's volunteer includes having been part of the efforts to save Congress Square Park from development and working for maintaining the iconic views from Ft. Sumner Park which lead to a citywide ordinance, the first of its kind for Portland to save historic vistas. She is a member of the Portland Pesticide Management Advisory Committee and prides herself on providing affordable housing through her rental property portfolio. Karen's favorite pastime? Hiking of course!

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**MAGGY WOLF:** Maggy has been deeply involved in the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization for quite some time. She is a resident of St. Lawrence Street where she lives in her family home. Like Karen, Maggy was instrumental in encouraging the view protections at Fort Sumner Park when a new development threatened to obscure the view permanently.

Maggy is a retired I.T. professional and an active member of the Portland Climate Action Team and volunteer at Oxford Street Community Garden. When she isn't busy with work, traveling or being a big help to the MHNO, Maggy is an excellent, non-stop knitter!

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**A Big Bloomin' THANK YOU** ~ To our master gardener, member, neighbor and friend Sue Yandell, for her stewardship and hard work to bring the MHNO Hill House garden to life this summer and making us a stop on this year's Hidden Gardens of Munjoy Hill garden tour! Sue's a one-woman beautification machine and if you haven't seen her tucked-away in the corner of our property working on the gardens, you've likely seen her in front of the St. Lawrence doing the same thing. And thanks to Sue's awesome daughters for also helping out with the heavy lifting and shoveling the last few days! Thank you, Sue! Nothing blooms brighter than a good neighbor, and you're the best they come!



## *Hidden Gardens of Munjoy Hill*

Self-guided tour runs from  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning at  
Fort Allen Park, Eastern Promenade,  
Portland, Maine  
(rain or shine)

\$15 in advance, \$20 day of the tour

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