

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association

BY THE CNA BOARD

The Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) advocates for quality of life in the South of Broad neighborhood. Neighbors, committee members, and the CNA Board actively work on issues critical to our community. Below are updates on a few of our activities.

ELIMINATING GAS POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

Let's Go Electric.

Over the past year, the CNA Board has advocated for a ban on the use of gas leaf blowers, and has gained support for that ban from other neighborhoods throughout the peninsula. Despite this support, and although over 100 US cities have already made this change, the city will not be implementing a ban anytime soon. We have thus recommended, in our recent email (see our website www.chasna.org), that residents voluntarily switch from gas to electric blowers, while we continue to push for a ban.

CNA's 2024 letter to the Mayor described how the noise, fumes and vibrations of these gas blowers injure our city's residents, workers and environment. For example:

- These blowers produce over 100 decibels of low-frequency noise, like a Boeing 737 taking off.
- Their engines eject, unburned, a third of their gasoline and they leak formaldehyde and benzene, known carcinogens.

HOW TO GO ELECTRIC

CNA has identified some options:

- Use a landscaper that already uses electric blowers downtown including: Ables Landscapes, Carolina Landscape and The Greenery.
- Discuss the issue with your current landscaper. Some CNA members persuaded their landscapers to stop using gas blowers. Some even purchased the equipment and/or paid a higher fee for the service.
- If you maintain your own property and use gas blowers, switching to electric blowers would entail an initial cost but would lower your operating costs and save you money over time. (<https://chasesantacruz.org/gas-vs-battery-power-which-is-more-expensive>). It would also be much healthier for you and your neighbors. Commit to changing your equipment in the future, no later than when your current gas blower needs replacement or maintenance.
- Don't wait for your neighbor. When most of our neighborhood has gone electric, we'll be in a stronger position to persuade both the remaining minority to switch, and the city to impose a ban.

STREAMLINING THE MEETING & BROAD STREET INTERSECTION

How long did you have to wait the last time you drove through the Broad and Meeting Street intersection? Too long, we're sure! Well, you should soon see some relief. As a result of the

perseverance of our newest Board member, Daniel Layfield, and the strong support of the CNA Board and Councilman Seekings, the city completed a study and will be implementing the changes below.

- Removal of the "No Right Turn" signs which should relieve the backload of cars at the intersection by allowing the constant flow of right-turning traffic.
- Closure of two of the northbound parking spaces in front of Saint Michael's Church in the afternoon, during school pick-up time. This gives northbound traffic an additional lane and right-turning opportunity.

OBJECTING TO A DOCK OFF LOCKWOOD

The Beach Company requested a permit for a large private dock off Lockwood Drive. Once the Board was informed, we objected and notified members. Within a week, SCDES received over 500 public comments and Beach Company withdrew its request. We thank all those who commented!

Participation from our neighbors is key to improving quality of life in our neighborhood. If you are not a member already, please join the CNA at www.chasna.org/membership.





Unite with your South of Broad neighbors

Join the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association

Local advocacy for issues you care about

Timely updates for notices and events

Member meetings featuring local leaders

A way to contribute to your neighborhood



Scan to join or visit www.chasna.org/membership