

# HIGHLIGHT

*The Newsletter of the High Street Hill Association*

*March 2003*

## ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, April 14 at the Latvian Lutheran Church, 58 Irving Street

5:30 pm — Family Potluck dinner

Families with last names beginning with A-F please bring a dessert, G-M a salad, and N-Z a main dish.

7:00 pm — Brookline's Comprehensive Plan, presentation from Brookline Planning Dept.

8:30 pm — Annual Business Meeting

*All High Street Hill families are encouraged to come.*

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Thank you for your continued support of our neighborhood association and activities. Dues continue to be \$10 a year. Use the attached envelope to return your dues. You may contact the treasurer at [jpeteet@bu.edu](mailto:jpeteet@bu.edu) to check your status. If you have pre-paid in previous years, please consider making that payment a donation and paying annual dues now.

### MUDDY RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

Consultants to the Town of Brookline will present the Final Environmental Impact Report on flood control and historic preservation of the Emerald Necklace, which includes Olmsted Park:

Thursday, March 27, 7:00 pm

Town Hall, Selectmen's Room, 333 Washington St

### SHARING

Because the Highlight is a way of staying in touch with our neighbors, we often ask people to share special thoughts or family events. Frances Shedd-Fisher, former President of HSHA wrote some thoughts about the neighborhood to an activist in another part of Town. I asked her to share her words with all of us. Below is an excerpt. Further text is on our website.

#### Reminiscences about our neighborhood

I suppose many neighborhoods in Brookline have dealt with encroachment of one kind or another, though few, I believe, have worked together so diligently to preserve and enhance our quality of life.

In the early days of my residency in the neighborhood, neighbors worked hard to assure a successful transition for the old Hospital for Women on Pond Avenue. The preservation effort resulted in high end residential condos which preserved the beautiful late 19th century/early 20th c. facade and the grounds. Did you know that that hospital is where Dr. Rock invented "the pill" and the first radiation therapy for breast cancer occurred? That hospital was part of the impetus for the development of much of the neighborhood, the reason there are so many attractive

architect-designed houses dating from the late 19th c. Of course, we have several houses of great merit that date from the early 19th c. and even the 18th c. We became a National Register Area shortly after I moved here and later the Pill Hill Local Historic District.

Citizen advocacy for the restoration of the Emerald Necklace practically began in my neighborhood. I am proud to say I chaired the Preservation Master Planning Committee that led to the revitalization of Olmsted Park and the return to parkland of Riverdale Road. Olmsted Park near Leverett Pond is now filled with children, mothers with prams, joggers, dog walkers, bicyclists, even cross country skiers, and, unfortunately, geese. We have a restored Olmsted Park, though after 12 years there is still work to be done, including implementing the Environmental Master Plan for the Emerald Necklace [see *Muddy River Project*].

We still have areas of discomfort. Walnut is the oldest street in Brookline. Traffic calming on Walnut Street resulted in two speed humps that do slow traffic down, but we also got over 100 signs and lines and ugly bumpouts lining our historic street, so the price was high. We need to continue to seek further improvements on Walnut Street, including near new Lincoln.

The High Street Hill Association, I believe the oldest neighborhood association in Town, is the glue that holds my end of the precinct together. We host a winter musicale, a spring potluck and annual meeting, a picnic on the Upland Green, an October barn dance in Sandy Gadsby's barn, and on Xmas Eve, candlelight caroling on the Green. There is more, but you get the flavor of the energy it has taken to preserve our corner of Brookline, our sense of community. We are indeed fortunate that we live in such an extraordinary and historic community. Let's continue to work together to hold onto the best of the past while we integrate change in the most neighborhood friendly ways we can. - Frances Shedd-Fisher

As I finish my term as President of HSHA, I want to echo Frances' sentiment. Our neighborhood is a special place, made more so by the activities of our neighborhood association. I am proud to have served as President. - Arlene Mattison

# Celebration

*Friends  
of  
Leverett  
Pond*

Twenty-five years ago, the High Street Hill Association founded Friends of Leverett Pond to restore Olmsted Park, one of Frederick Law Olmsted's masterpieces.

We want to mark this anniversary with a spectacular celebration. This year's "Picnic on the Green" will be held at Leverett Pond as part of this celebration.

Join us on the banks of Leverett Pond

**Sunday, June 15**

25th Anniversary Celebration — 2-5 pm

Annual HSHA Picnic — 5-7 pm

*bring food to grill & a salad or dessert to share*

**pony rides**

**balloons**

**costumed dog parade**

**stone skipping**

**music throughout the day**

**art show**

**nature walks**

**bicycle repair workshop**

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Would you like to use your writing skills to create a **QUEST** for Olmsted Park? Work with a naturalist and Brookline GreenSpace Alliance executive director to write a fanciful treasure hunt for our wonderful Park.

Call BGSA at 617 277-4777 or write [bgsa@world.std.com](mailto:bgsa@world.std.com)