

# HIGHLIGHT

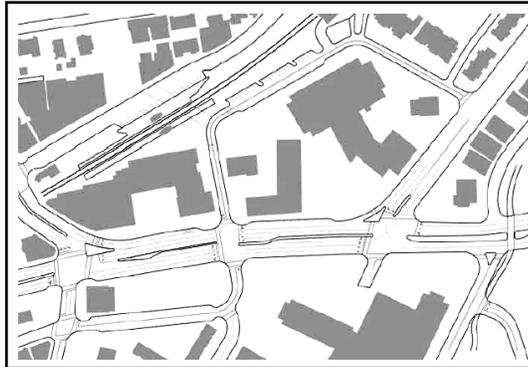
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*The Newsletter of the High Street Hill Association*

*September 2005*

## Route 9 Redone: Gateway East Update

Over the last 10 weeks the 25-member Gateway East Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has made progress developing a set of recommendations to guide changes to the area along Route 9 from High Street to the Boston line. Guided by urban design consultants hired by the Planning Department, the CAC sessions have been wide-ranging and an "interim" report is being prepared for delivery to the Selectmen in October. Although the committee is charged with providing input on all aspects of the public realm in this congested area, the group to date has focused mainly on traffic redesign and has yet not fully developed recommendations for other very important aspects including some longer range components.



The improvements most likely to be included in the interim report are:

- Improved Route 9 signal timing, narrowing of lanes, new wayfinding signage and reducing unnecessary pavement
- Demolition of the concrete footbridge over Route 9 and redesign the Walnut Street/Juniper jughandle to form a new intersection and crosswalk at Pearl Street

- Installing streetscape improvements to include paving, street trees, furnishings and lighting, all based on existing Brookline Village standards
- Redesign of the River Road access drive and providing a better Emerald Necklace crossing across Route 9 for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Improvements to the MBTA Station and providing a continuous corridor through the 2 Brookline Place site that emphasizes the connection from Brookline Village and the MBTA station to the Emerald Necklace.

Some items not yet fully discussed include: the best use for the land gained by the reconfiguration of the jughandle and the removal of the footbridge; the fate of the "industrial island" where the gas station at the corner of Brookline

Avenue is located, as proposed in the Comp Plan; maximizing sources of funding.

A copy of a August 16 presentation that guided the CAC's latest meeting describes the current status of the discussion in more detail and can be seen at [www.town.brookline.ma.us/Planning](http://www.town.brookline.ma.us/Planning). For info call HSHA residents Hugh Mattison (232-6083), Faith Michaels (739-6729), Linda Hamlin (277-6542 ) or Rob Daves (566-7334).

## Help Needed for Katrina Families:

*A Message from Faith Michaels, President, Kids Clothes Club:*

"The Kids Clothes Club has been asked by the Governor's office to provide winter coats for people displaced by the hurricane who have come to our state. How can you help? A monetary donation to the KCC will help to fulfill this need and help ensure we have coats for all our local kids as well. We are also looking for specific things for families who are now trying to make New England their home.

- new kitchen items
- nice working clothes for a teacher, women's size 12-14.
- furnishings for an apartment

If you want to send me a check to buy these clothing for these families I will be taking them shopping! You can leave off items on my porch at 108 Upland Road. I will be delivering them directly to the people who need them. Call me at 617-739-6729 with questions or for more information. Thank you."

The Brookline-based Kids Clothes Club has grown by leaps and bounds since Pill Hill residents Faith Michaels and Elaine Shannon decided in 1991 that no Brookline child would be without a warm winter coat. Today, Kids Clothes Club, Inc. raises approximately \$60,000 each year to provide new, high quality winter coats free to 4,000 kids from Brookline, Boston, and New England. KCC has headquarters at 120 Cypress Street and is a 501-C3 tax-deductible organization.

## *How about a Pill Hill Online Bookshelf?*

Do you know of an author or musician from the High Street Hill neighborhood who has published their work? Do you know of books about Pill Hill's past history or residents? As yet another way to help define what makes our neighborhood so special were looking to build an online library of links to Pill Hill- and Brookline- specific cultural resources.

Send your ideas to Tom Elwertowski at [webmaster@highstreethill.org](mailto:webmaster@highstreethill.org).

## **B-B-B-Babbling Brook Update**

Erin Chute Gallentine, Director of Parks and Open Space, tells us that the Town is in the final stages of review of plans for the restoration project and it will go out to bid this fall. Weather permitting, sediment removal could start as early as the winter but full work is expected to begin in the early spring with completion slated for midsummer.

Join Us  
for  
*An Afternoon of Art & Design*

Saturday, October 29, 12:30 - 3:30PM

The HSHA Art & Design Tour will feature three neighborhood homes and a local art gallery, each with significant collections and installations. Showcased homeowners, who are either artists themselves or collectors/curators, will give guided views of their private, eclectic collections, highlighting their individual tastes and interests. The tour will end with a reception and informal discussion at *GASP*, a gallery on Boylston Street owned by an internationally renowned artist/neighbor.

**Tour Highlights**

- ◇ contemporary South African and American art
- ◇ video installation and photography
- ◇ lithographs, drawing
- ◇ examples of printmaking and modern design
- ◇ discussion of issues related to realism, activism, migration, and social transformation

Tour guides will lead small groups of 6-8 through the three homes, spending approximately 20-25 minutes at each location, meeting owners and viewing and discussing collections. The final reception, gathering all tour groups and owner-participants, will complete the tour and afternoon.

**Cost: \$10 per person for HSHA members\* and their guests.**

\*Note: HSHA membership is open to all residents of the the HSHA area (the Pill Hill Historic District- see map on our website at [www.highstreethill.org](http://www.highstreethill.org)) and requires a per household yearly dues of \$10. Not sure if you dues is paid up? Please call our Treasurer, Jean Peteet, at 738-8555 or ask Marie when you register. Not yet a member? Please join when you register for the tour.

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*Reservation*

This is an invite-only event for local residents and their guests. Space is limited and reservations are required. Complete and return this form with your payment by **October 15** to Marie Schick, 10 Upland Road, Brookline 02445. Or you may contact Marie Schick by email ([mschick@nni.com](mailto:mschick@nni.com)) or phone (617-388-4501) to reserve your tickets.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending - \$10/person \_\_\_\_\_  
HSHA Dues - \$10/household/year \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



**3rd Annual Watershed Walk, Sunday, September 25th 2:00 PM**  
Join local hydrologist Kate Bowditch, for a walk along the Muddy River

**Patterns of Development and Open Space: An Historical Perspective**  
Sunday, October 2nd, 2:00 PM Trolley Tour -- Tickets now available  
Join local Brookline historian Greer Hardwicke as we learn how green space can help enhance development and our quality of life.

**Through the eyes of an activist: A visit to Olmsted Park and Pinebank Mansion**  
Sunday, October 9th, 2:00 PM, Olmsted Park  
Learn about the history of Olmsted Park through the eyes of local park activist, Hugh Mattison.

For more info about these 3 events please call 617-277-4777  
or go to [www.brooklinegreenspace.org](http://www.brooklinegreenspace.org)

The *Highlight* is printed several times a year and is distributed on foot or by bicycle by HSHA Board members and their usually-willing family members. If you have a comment or contribution contact the editor, Rob Daves, at 566-7334 or [robdaves@rcn.com](mailto:robdaves@rcn.com).