

# HIGHLIGHT

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*The Newsletter of the High Street Hill Association*

*June 2006*

**A Neighborhood Tradition!**

## **PONY RIDES**

(from 4:30-5:30 only)

**Exhibit of Pill Hill Art**  
(see below)



**Come to the HSHA**

## **Annual Picnic on the Green**

(Philbrick Square, top of Upland Road)

**Sunday, Father's Day, June 18  
4 PM**

**Bring family, friends, a dish to share  
and something to put on the grill**

**Soft drinks and grills will be provided**

## **\$1000 Donated for Park Plantings**

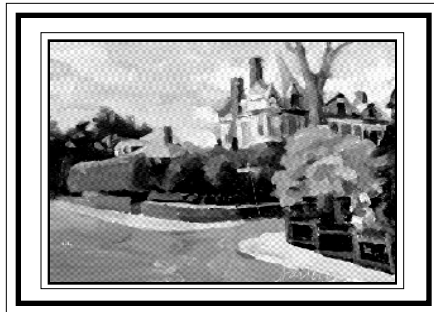
The High Street Hill Association is very pleased to announce that it has received a donation of \$1000 from the Board of the Olmsted Park Condominiums for planting materials in Olmsted Park. The HSHA subcommittee, the Friends of Leverett Pond, has agreed to oversee the use of these funds and to ensure that the donation will be used for plants only, with labor to be provided by neighborhood volunteers. As with the \$500 that the HSHA itself donated last month, this money will be matched by the Town.

We would like to thank the Board of the Olmsted Park Condominiums and Ronald Brown of R. Brown and Company, manager of the Olmsted Park Condominiums for their generous gift. We also thank **Hugh Mattison**, HSHA board member **Rosemary Mahoney** and Parks & Open Space Director Erin Chute Gallentine for working out the details to make this neighborhood/Town partnership possible.

Hugh has offered to organize a neighborhood planting day this fall. If you would like to volunteer please email Hugh at [hmattison@aol.com](mailto:hmattison@aol.com).

## **Gallery-for-a-Day**

Some of you may have seen artist **Virginia Jacobs** painting scenes around the neighborhood since last fall. A very old friend of **Dennis and Betsy DeWitt**, she is staying with them at their 94 Upland Road home. She majored in Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and worked for many years as a graphic designer



for Philadelphia architects and museums, while her quilted fabric constructions were exhibited internationally. She started oil painting 10 years ago at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Anyone who would like to see Pill Hill through a painter's eyes is welcome to visit the DeWitt's front-porch-gallery-for-a-day on Upland Green during the picnic.

## **Dues Appeal Update**

We are please to report that we have received \$1515 from 72 families since sending out our request for annual dues last month. A special thanks to the following who gave an extra donation to support the HSHA and its activities:

Morag Anne Teek  
Jean and Kyra Montagu  
Betsy and Gary Gross  
Katherine and Anthony Leness  
Brooke and Jeff Cooke  
Ted Stebbins and Susan Ricci  
Nicola Moscufo and Kristen Leader  
Joan and Nick Thorndike  
Catherine and Philip Buckley  
Maria Connor and Luis Moreno

## **HSHA Board Changes**

Those who attended the HSHA Annual Meeting on April 24 confirmed the election of one new member to the HSHA Executive Board and said farewell to two outgoing members. **Fran McElheny**, who served as secretary for many years, and **Lucy Aptekar**, who organized many HSHA events, are stepping down. We thank them both for their very significant contributions to our neighborhood. We will especially miss Fran's tongue-in-cheek annual Secretary's Report.

We welcome **Luis Moreno** of 36 Allerton Street as our newest board member and congratulations to **Rosemary Mahoney** who became our new Vice President.

## Babbling Brook Thanks

If you haven't had a chance to see the wonderful restoration of the Babbling Brook it's time for a stroll in the park. Over the last few months this portion of the Muddy River that runs from Ward's Pond to Willow Pond in Olmsted Park has been completely revitalized. In accordance with the Emerald Necklace Masterplan and fitting with Frederick Law Olmsted's original design, the brook channel bed was improved and hundreds of plants and shrubs were installed. This project represents the last piece of the Brookline portion of the Olmsted Park restoration.

We'd like to thank those HSHA neighbors who contributed so much hard work over many years at the local, state and even national level to see that the park was properly restored.

- Thanks to **Hugh Mattison** for identifying funding sources and keeping pressure on the Town to secure and use those funds.
- Thanks to **Frances Shedd Fisher** for chairing the Olmsted/Riverway Restoration Project Advisory Committee that fought to ensure that the most important aspects of the restoration were included in the masterplan.
- Thanks to **Arlene Mattison** who along with Hugh and Frances attended countless meetings and still does as member of the Muddy River Restoration Project Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee (MMOC).
- Thanks to **Betsy Shure Gross** for creating and helping to sustain the National and Massachusetts Associations for Olmsted Parks through thick and thin.
- And thanks to members of the HSHA for hosting the Friends of Leverett Pond and keeping the issue up front for years.

The history of the rescue of Olmsted Park is a fascinating story that needs to be told. Over the next few months the HSHA will work to post photos from our archive and bring a narrative of those events to our website.

## Pond Avenue Review

On May 8 the Brookline Transportation Board met to discuss improvement of a pedestrian crossing on Pond Avenue at the Brook House. Since the HSHA had been lobbying hard to get the Town to address a long list of concerns about pedestrian safety and vehicle speed on Pond Avenue, we were surprised to find that just one crossing was the subject of the T-Board discussion. The HSHA board showed up as group and expressed its concerns. After our comments the T-Board agreed to review safety issues for the whole Pond Avenue corridor.

The continued vitality of the now restored Olmsted Park depends on a strong connection to the neighborhood. We look forward to working with the Town to make sure that link isn't broken.

### In Precinct Five

Congratulations to reelected Town Meeting Members:

Liz Craig-Olins  
Rob DeVries  
Lenore von Krusenstiern  
Phyllis O'Leary  
Tom Elwertowski  
and new TMM, Randolph Meiklejohn

And a big congratulations to Pill Hill's Betsy DeWitt, our new Selectman.

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## We Will Miss You

After 16 years as Principal of Lincoln School, Barbara Shea is stepping down. On behalf of those neighborhood families that were fortunate to know her and benefit from her leadership, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks.

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## Want to get involved? Here are four great opportunities:

### Continuing discussion for the redesign of the Brookline Village MBTA station

*Tuesday, June 6th at 6:30PM. Brookline Town Hall, 3rd Floor Employees Lounge.*

The focus of this meeting will be to refine ideas generated at the last public meeting on May 17th. Please contact Donald Giard at the Town of Brookline Planning and Community Development Department for more info.

### The 6th Annual Meeting of the Brookline Neighborhood Alliance

*Thursday, June 8, 7:00. Martin Luther King Room, Brookline High School*

Featured speaker will be Ken Liss: "All History is Local: Uncovering the Story of Your Brookline Neighborhood." Liss, a member of the Board of Directors of the Brookline Historical Society, will show how to use library resources, government documents, old newspapers, and online databases to paint a picture of a Brookline neighborhood as it existed 50, 100, or 150 years ago.

### Celebration of the Emerald Necklace/Muddy River Project and Public Meeting

*Thursday, June 8, 2006, 5:15-8:00PM. Massachusetts College of Art, Trustees Room, 11th Floor, 621 Huntington Avenue/Avenue of the Arts, Boston*

The Muddy River Restoration Project Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee (MMOC) holds its First Annual Public Meeting and invites everyone to give their comments. Refreshments will be served.

### Proposal for development of the Red Cab Site (111 Bolyston Street) to the Economic Development Advisory Board

*Tuesday, June 13th, 7-9PM. Old Lincoln School, Room 304.*

A developer is planning an office building for this important property across from Old Lincoln School. What gets built there will directly affect our neighborhood and the future of this section of Route 9.

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 617-566-7334 or at robdaves@rcn.com.