

# HIGHLIGHT

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*The Newsletter of the High Street Hill Association*

*December 2010*

*Join your neighbors*

## CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLING ON THE "GREEN"

LED BY  
CORNELIA MCMURTRIE

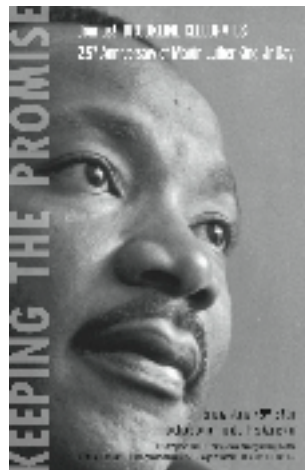


DECEMBER 24 AT 5:45PM

PLEASE BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND  
A WIND-PROTECTED CANDLE

## Keeping the Promise

If you find yourself doing a double take at a familiar face peering out from a storefront window, it might be the captivating image of Martin Luther King, Jr set in a wonderful poster design by Pill Hill neighbor **Kristin Leader**. "Keeping the Promise," Brookline's official town-wide MLK, Jr celebration, will be held on Sunday, January 9 (note: not on MLK Day Jan 17) at 3 pm at the Coolidge Corner Theatre and is free and open to the public. The event will feature award-winning civil rights author and Tufts History Professor Peniel E. Joseph, performances by PALS Children's Chorus, the Winiker Band and the Brookline High School Jazz Band, as well as readings by students from the Steps to Success program. BHS faculty member Malcolm Cawthorne will serve as Master of Ceremonies.



## A Tired Dog Means a Happy Owner

At its most recent monthly meeting the HSHA board voted to send a note of thanks to the Board of Selectmen for their recent thoughtful debate and careful analysis of the complicated and challenging questions around the Green Dog Program and fees. Although nobody likes to pay for something that has been free, the fee is a justified, equitable and well-devised method of covering those costs associated with a specific park user group, their exclusive use of a park for certain hours, and the additional wear-and-tear beyond that of normal park use.

All non-school sports users of the parks have had to pay and now it's time for dog owners to contribute. A Park Ranger, funded by the new fees, will help ensure the success of the program as well as ensure benefits to all park users. The program's importance is confirmed every day at Downes Field by neighborhood camaraderie and happy dogs.

# Stupidi Graffiti

In the last month several with graffiti, some and Upland a repainted by the day. It's important misplaced form of immediately to the or you call them directly. They actively track the individual tags information to develop patterns to help catch the perpetrators.

fences and postal boxes in our neighborhood have been tagged of which uses names of breakfast cereals. At the corner of Irving defaced green postal Postal Service only to be that we take a stand expression. Please report police department. They have an online reporting form and use the

storage container was quickly hit again the next against this any graffiti online reporting form and use the

## Traffic Calming Update

Over the past several months the Town and our neighborhood have been working together to develop a safety improvement plan for Pond Avenue and High Street (see "Crosswalk Plan" on the HSHA homepage). Despite two hearings, several Transportation Board meetings and one "Road Rally," some residents still feel that the current plan does not adequately address some important concerns. We feel that it's time for residents to voice their opinions one last time before the T-Board makes its final decision, probably at its next meeting in January. Watch the Town Calendar for meeting agenda postings.

Some are the lingering concerns we have heard:

- Is this really a comprehensive, area-wide traffic plan that enhances the safety and quality of life of the whole neighborhood and does not simply create a benefit for one street while shifting problems to other roads?
- Is the expenditure of \$60,000 for 5 raised crosswalks the best use of that money? Maybe temporary trial installations of removable stanchions (like the one at High and Highland) should be tested first?
- Isn't there some way to get the High Street reduced to 25 mph as it is on Pond Avenue?
- Will curb projections on High Street at Highland Road be effective and safe?
- Can't signs near Olmsted Park be kept to an absolute, visually obtrusive minimum (fewer, smaller and yellow rather than florescent green)?

## Road Rally

After the HSHA sent a letter that charged, among other things, that proposed raised crosswalks on Pond Avenue might divert commuters to High Street, Transportation Board Chairman Michael Sandman proposed a friendly "road rally" to give the answer. At 8 AM on Wednesday Dec 9 four cars left the Chestnut Street parking lot on Pond Avenue simultaneously and set off to meet at the other end of Pond Ave at Route 9:

Car #1 (Mike Sandman) drove north the full length of Pond Ave to Rte. 9 (2 min 15 sec).

Car #2 (police cruiser driven by Sgt. Thornton) slowed to a rolling stop at each of the 5 existing crosswalks to test what a driver would experience with 5 raised crosswalks (2 min 45 sec).

Car #3 (Rob Daves) followed the cruiser but turned left on Allerton, right on High and right on Walnut at the fire station (4 min 30 sec).

Car #4 (Hugh Mattison) went up Chestnut to High St then right on High and right on Walnut at the fire station (4 min 15 sec).

Drivers of the two cars (#3, #4) who used High said that traffic was unusually light and that they were able to turn right on red at Walnut without having to wait at all, so their times were as short as one could expect for a car diverting over High Street.

*Conclusion:* At rush hour no one wanting to go inbound on Boylston will divert to High after the first time they try it. The congestion at the bottom of High at Boylston will persuade them to go back to Pond Ave. Equally important, during the rest of the day, there's still a significant disadvantage to diverting – it takes almost twice as long to divert to High Street as it would to go along Pond and come to a rolling stop 5 times.