

Bay Village Newsletter
October 1998

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

I would like to begin this letter by saying thank you to the residents of Bay Village for allowing me the opportunity to represent this neighborhood for this past year. I cannot believe that we are again looking to October and yet another annual meeting.

What an exciting year we have had together. My deepest thanks go to the very active and giving executive committee and all of the volunteers throughout the neighborhood who have given of their personal time and talents to make Bay Village such a wonderful place to call home. Many of the executive committee members have made a commitment to return for next year, as well. For that I am truly grateful!

We as a neighborhood have achieved many of the goals we had set way back in January and I look forward to sharing these successes with you at the annual meeting on October 28th (7 PM at the Radisson Hotel). Again, this is your neighborhood. I encourage your involvement, ideas and opinions. Please come to the annual meeting, see some old friends and make some new ones as well. See you there!

Paul Gagnon, President, BVNA

A MESSAGE FROM BOSTON HIGH

Our relationship with the BVNA really expanded this year and is developing into a true partnership between a school and a community-based organization. Boston High School is always available for any Bay Village meeting and in September, we hope to set up times in the evening for members to come to our school to use the computers and Internet access. During the year, I hope to sit down with members to discuss other programs and projects that will further develop our relationship.

A special thank-you to the BVNA and all who contributed to the Scholarship Fund for our seniors. The recipients were Angela Barnes, Daniel Irvin, Shannon McQueen, Denise Filbert and Dixi Saunders. They are most appreciative of your generous support.

Anyone wishing more information about our programs can call the school office at 635-8937.

Thomas Hennessey, Headmaster
Boston High School

ANNUAL MEETING, 10/28/98

The Bay Village Neighborhood Association's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 1998 at the Radisson Hotel, Boston. This is an opportunity to update neighbors on the past year's activities and to discuss goals

for the upcoming year. If you are a member of the association in good standing, you will be able to vote for the new slate of Executive Committee members. The Radisson has kindly offered the use of their hotel, and will provide light finger foods and a cash bar. The BVNA will also take this opportunity to honor those who have made significant contributions to the neighborhood. There will also be a special guest speaker to be announced shortly. Please make every effort to attend this very important neighborhood gathering.

MARDI GRAS IN SEPTEMBER

It was a picture perfect evening in September, the aroma of Bob the Chef's southern cuisine enveloped the street, as streams of neighbors and friends wearing colored beads, masks, crowns and tiaras laughed, chatted and danced the night away! Mardi Gras took over Melrose Street this year and for that night, Bay Village was New Orleans. Over 175 people came to enjoy yet another successful Block Party, this year organized by Tiegue Thomas, Amy Kaminski and Jonathan Wilson.

The block party originally began as a pot luck supper, and has grown as the years have gone on. As much as it has grown, the basic premise is still the same - to say thank you to our neighbors, to get to know our new residents and to have a great time doing it! The Block Party is just one of many social events throughout the year sponsored by the BVNA. We also have a Holiday Party in December, and of course the centerpiece to our year - the Street Fair in June. If you'd like to get involved in our social events, please call 542-BVNA. We hope all of you had a great time at the Block Party, and we can't wait to do it again!

THE BVNA WANTS YOU!

Dear Bay Village Neighbor,

Membership in our neighborhood association has remained at a steady 33% over the past year. We would love to be able to increase that number. By supporting the Bay Village Neighborhood Association, your dues provide the neighborhood with many benefits such as social events, Christmas decorations, flowers and landscaping in the summer, and this newsletter. If you are not already a member, or if you need to renew membership please take time to fill out the membership form in the newsletter. Thanks to all neighbors and members for making Bay Village such a special place to live in the city.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Burgoyne
BVNA Registrar

PREPARING FOR FALL

Autumn is nearly here and soon leaves will be falling. Many of us may be tempted to remove them from the tree beds. While it might make the tree beds look neat and clean, it may not be a good idea for the plants sharing the tree bed

with the tree. The leaves actually act as mulch for the plants, protecting them ice and severe winter cold. Therefore, it may be a good idea to let the leaves stay in the bed. You may even want to add extra mulch some fall fertilizer.

We want to remind you that the barrels at the corner of Church and Fayette, Church and Melrose and Church and Winchester are not maintained by the City. They are maintained by your neighbors. Please refrain from putting any household trash in them. Trash collection is Monday, Wednesday and Friday, so please plan accordingly.

As always, we ask pet owners to refrain from bringing their dogs to the tree beds. Dog droppings are never good for plants, even in fall and winter since the plants will either be damaged or killed.

Some pet owners go to the Eliot Norton Park with their dogs. As always, we ask pet owners to act responsibly and pick up after their pets at all times.

Dominic Mastrototaro
Beautification Committee

{Editors' Note: We would like to recognize Tom Kaucyk for all of his hard work this summer. Tom and Dominic together have been the Bay Village "angels" in planting, maintaining and watering the flower barrels throughout the neighborhood, as well as replanting the garden at Melrose and Church Streets. Gentlemen, thank you for a fantastic job well done!}

GINO'S CORNER

Hi everyone...trust you enjoyed this wonderful summer in beautiful BAY VILLAGE. Fall is here and it's time to get serious. Well, not too serious, but it is time to shape up!

I see many of my four-legged friends on my daily walks, and I have noticed quite a few chubbies and chubettes in our neighborhood.

Now, you do not have to put in a frantic call to Richard Simmons, but we do have to make our two-legged companions aware of this problem. The solution is usually quite simple: fewer treats and more exercise.

Oh, I know, we all love treats and people food, but you do not have to totally abstain. I have a deal with my Mums I'd like to share. As a working dog with a title, may I mention that she feeds me a bit less so I can have treats and/or lunch in the afternoon with friends who drop by my office to say hello. That way, I have the best of both worlds, as the saying goes.

And don't forget to exercise. Walking is good. Running is great! I bet you can get those flabby hindquarters (hips) toned by Halloween.

Some professional advice..."Obesity shortens a dog's life quite considerably, a life which is much too short anyhow." Konrad Lorenz (1903-1989), Austrian psychologist and animal behaviorist.

To all of you animal lovers out there, the Animal Rescue League of Boston is sponsoring Petoberfest 1998 on Saturday, October 17th (rain date, October 18th) at the Pine Ridge Animal Center, 55 Anna's Way (238 Pine Street) Dedham. This event is an effort to raise funds for the welfare of all animals and to support the

programs of the League, which provides care and comfort to thousands of homeless animals. Activities include a silent auction, music, food, children's activities, rides, and of course, animals!

Please support this exciting event. The league has been kind to many of our furry neighbors who were adopted by Villagers!

Please drop a line with anything you'd like to share to: Gino's Corner, PO Box 224, Boston, MA 02117 or call and leave a message at 542-BVNA.

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

The Bay Village Neighborhood Association sends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Richard Amero, who passed away after a long illness. Dick was a long time Bay Village resident and owner of the Napoleon Club. His caring, compassion and understanding of the importance of neighborhood will be greatly missed. The way Dick operated the Napoleon Club should be the standard by which all business owners are measured in Bay Village. Dick was one of the last true gentlemen. Many residents of Bay Village have warm and wonderful memories of times shared in the place known simply as "the club". We thank Richard Amero for so many good times. We shall miss him.

NEW TRAFFIC HOTLINE

The City of Boston has a new Hotline for transportation. To report a missing sign or to complain about traffic issues, call 635-4283. The Transportation Department monitors the line during business hours. After business hours, the calls are referred to the Mayor's Hotline.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Recently, while doing some research for the Haynes Flute Company, "Bay Village News" Editor Bill Rowbottom happened upon some copies of the Bay Village newsletter dating back to 1984 and 1985. (The paper was then known as "The Bay Village" formerly Bay Vil!) While these issues are not prehistoric, it was fascinating to see some of the similarities and differences of neighborhood issues and activities in the mid-'80s and in 1998, as the millennium approaches.

In June of 1985, President John Giangregorio's message highlighted the membership drive. He writes, "The Committee's goal is 500 members. This goal is going to be difficult to achieve since there are less than 1,000 households in the Village. We hope that every individual who lives in Bay Village will join." Does this message sound familiar? This year's Executive Committee has set similar goals, and wants all neighbors to be a part of the Association.

In October of 1984, Bay Village hosted a Halloween Costume Ball at the Napoleon Club. As the text read, "While party goers are encouraged to wear a costume, outlandish outfits won't be required for admission." Cash prizes were awarded for the best costumes, chosen from the following categories: best overall, best group, most original, best mask, and the costume "displaying the

most confusion over sexual identity." Much to our loss, we no longer have the Napoleon Club as a neighbor. The Club truly was an integral part of neighborhood activities, thanks to the generosity of owner Dick Amero. Although Bay Village does not celebrate Halloween as enthusiastically as it did in '84, we will miss our annual Christmas revels at the Napoleon.

Most of you know our police officer, Steve Hofferty. Steve, too, was mentioned in the 1984 newsletter. He has been on this beat for fifteen years. The only difference is that today he rides a bike, instead of walking the neighborhood. Steve is truly a member of the Bay Village family.

PRESERVING THE MOTOR MART

Located in Park Square, the Motor Mart Garage is slated for redevelopment. This 1929 building has the distinction of being Boston's first large-scale garage. Because of the increasing popularity of the automobile, the construction of the Motor Mart was one of the first attempts to bring automobile servicing and parking under a roof.

Boston architect Ralph Harrington Doane, whose creation won him the prestigious Boston Society of Architect's Harleston Parker Award in 1927, designed the garage. Seven of its eight stories are devoted to parking, while the ground level incorporates retail space. During the building's prime, it could accommodate 2,000 automobiles.

The unique pentagonal shape of the building resulted from the architect's incorporation of the slope of the land into the original design. Both stripped classical and art deco styles are incorporated into the façade, which is detailed with decorative cast stone parapets and cornices, fluted pilasters, ornamental spandrels and steel sash windows. Winged medallions fashioned to look like flying hubcaps reinforce the automotive theme.

The renovation by the building's owner, M. DeMatteo Construction Company, will include widening and restructuring the parking levels and ramps to better accommodate vehicles. The retail space will also be renovated to attract new tenants and upgrade existing tenant spaces. The concrete façade of the building will be repaired and replaced as necessary, and the roof will be reconstructed.

HOW TO REACH THE BVNA:

By mail: PO Box 224, Back Bay Postal Annex, Boston, MA 02117-0224

The HOT LINE: 542-2862 (542-BVNA) Information about up-coming events can be accessed by this number.

WEBSITE: www.bayvillage.net

Letters to the Editors are invited. Please write to the Bay Village News, c/o the PO Box.

DATES TO REMEMBER: BVNA NEEDS YOU

Monday, October 12, 1998:

COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

Monday, October 26, 1998:
Planning Committee, 7:00 PM, Renaissance School

Wednesday, October 28, 1998:
Annual BVNA Meeting; Election of Officers. 7:00pm, Radisson Hotel.

Monday, November 2, 1998:
BVNA Executive Committee, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, November 11, 1998:
VETERANS' DAY HOLIDAY

Thursday, November 26, 1998
THANKSGIVING

Monday, November 30, 1998:
Planning Committee, 7:00 PM, Renaissance School

A WORD TO THE WISE

Your home is your most precious investment. If you are planning to make improvements to that home, you need to understand your rights under the Consumer Protection Law.

Before you choose a contractor, you should:

- > Interview three contractors and ask for a written, detailed estimate from each.
- > Check with the Board of Building Regulations and Standards at (617) 727-8598 to check whether the contractor is registered or has a history of complaints.
- > Always have the contractor secure the building permit so in case something goes wrong, you could still qualify under the state's Guaranty Fund.
- > Ask for, and check, the references of each contractor.
- > Don't pay in full. Wait until the work is completed and meets your satisfaction before making the last payment.

If you have any questions on any consumer-related topic, please call a Consumer Affairs Specialist at Boston City Hall. The telephone number is 635-3834.

BVNA ENTERS THE 21st CENTURY

Thanks to the efforts of our Registrar, Mary Anne Burgoyne, the BVNA now has a Website, and Mary Anne can add the title "Webmaster" to her list of credentials! If you have access to the Internet, you can visit our Website at www.bayvillage.net. For your convenience, there is a calendar of monthly events,

a list of executive committee members, a membership page and descriptions of the association's committees and their functions. The website also provides links to the City of Boston, MBTA, Boston Public Library, and many other resources. Be sure to bookmark our home page for your convenience.

NEW & NEWSWORTHY NEIGHBORS

Kelly and Peter Zotos are the proud new parents of a baby boy Justin, who was born September 13th. He is currently the youngest member of the Neighborhood Association and will undoubtedly help his dad with his duties as BVNA Treasurer. Congratulations to Vineet Gupta of Fayette Street, the recipient the 1998 Henry L. Shattuck Public Service Award. This award is a public recognition of commitment to excellence in service to the City of Boston. Vin works for the Transportation Department.