

Bay Village Newsletter  
February 1999

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...**

Even with snow on the ground and a chill in the air, things are heating up in Bay Village. We are working hard to protect our fragile community through the efforts of our Planning and Licensing Committees. Our Crime Committee meets every month to find ways to improve communication with our law enforcement officials, and believe it or not, we are already underway with planning for our annual Street Fair, coming your way in June!

There are so many volunteer opportunities within the neighborhood and I am asking for your help. Please get involved. Even just a little bit of your time will go a long way to make our neighborhood that much better. For all the work that has been done, and all we've yet to do, I thank you and look forward to working together.

Paul Gagnon,  
President, BVNA

### **BIG DOINGS FOR RADIO PARK!**

You may have noticed that the park between Melrose and Fayette Streets at Charles Street South was not bedecked in the same summer splendor last summer as in previous years. Our park was waiting patiently for the commencement of a renovation project long desired by the neighborhood. Tentative plans include the removal of the brick wall surrounding the area and making it a true park, through the funding of the City of Boston's Capital Fund. Members of the Beautification Committee submitted a grant application to the Ingersoll-Brown Fund, a city trust fund, which granted the neighborhood approximately \$30,000 to install a cast sandstone trickle fountain with ornamental lion heads on the site to further improve the aesthetics after the work to be done by Parks and Recreation is completed. Fountain plans have been reviewed by the Bay Village Historic Districts Commission.

Work is slated to begin some time this spring. A call to the Parks Department at 635-4505 might help to speed up the time priority for this project. The neighborhood is also in the process of forming a "Friends of Elliot Norton and Bay Village Park" group, to be a separate non-profit entity that will assure that these urban gems are properly cared for, not only by the City, but also by raising private funds to add additional unbudgeted improvements. More information will soon be forthcoming.

### **27th ANNUAL BAY VILLAGE STREET FAIR**

Have you noticed that the days are getting significantly longer? We are halfway through the winter and the neighborhood is hard at work planning the 27th annual Bay Village Street Fair. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 5th. This is a great day to come out and meet your neighbors, old and new, and give a few hours of your time to help make this annual affair a successful money-raiser. Tony Wong is this year's chairperson. He needs volunteers to chair committees, to help plan events and to bring new ideas to the table. Join in the fun. The first meeting to plan the Fair will be held on Tuesday, February 16th at 230 Stuart Street at 7:00 PM. Be a part of the action and bring your creativity to this kick-off session.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RETREAT**

BVNA President Paul Gagnon announced that the Executive Committee will again have a one-day retreat early in March to set goals and precedents for the remainder of the year. Last year's meeting was a brainstorming session that led us to increase our membership, set up a Web site, increase our ability to communicate and generally share our ideas of what the Executive Committee's priorities should be. Our goals for the coming months will appear in the next issue of The Bay Village News!

### **CRIME COMMITTEE**

Following an example that has been enacted into law in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the Bay Village Crime Committee is drafting a bill to prohibit cruising in certain areas of the City of Boston. This draft may be viewed by following this link: [Bay Village Draft Bill](#). This will be an agenda item at the April 1999 Executive Committee meeting (April 5th). The bill is designed to give police another tool to combat prostitution in Bay Village and prevent the traffic that results from it.

Please take the time to read the draft. All interested persons are invited to make comments in writing to Christopher Engebretson at his email address: [crime-committee@bayvillage.net](mailto:crime-committee@bayvillage.net)

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The BVNA Planning Committee is in the process of setting up a subcommittee to deal with increasing airplane noise over the neighborhood. If you are interested, please call the hotline or attend one of our meetings. All meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at the Renaissance School at 7:00 PM.

Old photos of Bay Village are needed. The committee is developing a year 2000 calendar using historical pictures. Please call the hotline if you have some interesting pictures of the neighborhood. This promises to be an interesting project.

Corcoran Jennison is the designated developer for the Don Bosco site. Plans have been unveiled to include a Doubletree Hotel and a new YMCA with an affiliated daycare facility.

Mike Maddigan

## **BEAUTIFICATION**

Winter has arrived and it seems as though the parks and tree beds have lost all their spring and summer beauty. Without the colorful flowers and lush green, some of us who have four-legged friends may be tempted to bring them to the parks and tree beds. The truth of the matter is that all is not dead in the parks and tree beds. Some have evergreen vines and others have hosta, a plant that lies dormant during the winter, only to bloom again in the spring. Many tree beds also have spring bulbs eagerly waiting to make their debut in April and May. Therefore, it is most important to keep the parks and tree beds clean, even during the winter. Even heavy trash bags may damage the plant materials that are not yet visible. May we suggest that you walk your dog in the vacant lot adjacent to the Milner Hotel, but please clean up after your pet.

Please be reminded that the park at the corner of Melrose and Church Street is maintained by your neighbors, not the City of Boston. It is not a repository for household trash, which should be placed on the sidewalk outside of your residence after 5:00 PM on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, for removal the following morning.

Dominic Mastrototaro  
Beautification Committee

## **GINO'S CORNER**

{Editorial Note: RIP, Gino. Bay Village resident 3/28/88-11/30/98. "Gino just made everything and every day the best!" Jo Campbell and her family have made a donation in Gino's memory to the BVNA Beautification Committee.}

(Author's Note: "I am fortunate to be blessed with wonderful friends and neighbors in Bay Village who have "hung in" through a very difficult time. Without every one of you, it would have been even more painful. I am so grateful for your friendship, generosity and caring.

This column has been taken over by Gino's "Mums," who hopes to continue in the true Gino spirit. On a more personal note, I'd like to address that special bond we all have for our cherished pets, and the sadness we feel when they are gone from our lives." Jo Campbell)

**CANINE ALERT:** Directed to all persons on the other end of the leash. We have a major problem with those people who do not pick up after their dog. Yes, I know we have talked about this before, but the situation seems to have escalated in the last few months.

**THE NOs:** No, not in snowbanks! Those baggies you've hidden in the snow don't just evaporate when the snow melts, leaving a very unsightly mess. No, not in the tree pits! The Beautification Committee spends a great deal of time and effort for the enjoyment of everyone. Let's appreciate the beauty around us by not using them as a private depository. No, not in the cache basins! Some of you are still doing it, after all these years, and shame on you! YES to proper use of the trash barrels on the corners. PLEASE.

One of my neighbors has used a hand-printed sign that seems to be effective in some other neighborhoods. "Littering is illegal, selfish and filthy, and so is your dog's crap." Sound a bit rude? People who don't pick up are rude.

**WINTER WEATHER REMINDER:** Salt on the streets is painful and harmful to many canines. Yes, I know some of you real toughies grin and bear it, but there are more than a few prince/princesses who may be sensitive. Boots really do work and you make a fashion statement by matching your outfits/designer duds. How about two-tone boots with a wing tip effect, or maybe a sleek stretch boot? Wardrobe is so important for the dogs of Bay Village, don't you agree? Anyway, back to the salt. Wash off the paws after your walk with soapy water, not too hot, and towel dry. You will get kisses.

There are many issues facing those of us who are concerned about quality of life for our pets. One is the lack of designated space for walking and running. Another is the existing law and enforcement regarding the leash law. There are many more that affect our continued enjoyment of our pets. Please drop a note to Gino's Corner, c/o BVNA, PO Box 1296, Boston, MA 02117, or leave a message on the Hotline (542-BVNA). Don't forget to leave your phone number, along with your thoughts, suggestions or ideas. Your calls and notes will be answered.

### **ANIMAL MEMORY CORNER**

A few editions back, I proposed an Animal Fund in memory of our four legged companions we have loved and lost. Bay Village is made up of people who love and care for animals in the same way we love and care for our neighborhood. Our animals are an important part of our homes and community. The fund would help to defray the cost of producing the newsletter and would provide a news item of interest to our neighborhood friends.

Recently, we have lost one of our dear pals known to many in the neighborhood as Gino. In the past, Gino's doggie column appeared in several editions of the Bay Village News. Therefore, it seems an appropriate time to kick-off the Animal

Fund in his memory, and to the memories of two Bay Village felines who recently left us and have gone to the happy hunting ground. I hope from now on we can make this an ongoing part of the Bay Village News in tribute to our wonderful pets. Donations of any amount can be made to - Bay Village Neighborhood Association, c/o Animal Fund, PO Box 1296, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

Please give your pet's name, and a personal postscript for the newsletter

June McCourt

\*\*\*\*\* A donation has been made to the BVNA in memory of Nines and Rufus - they graced our lives with joy and love for almost 20 years. - Norman Block and June McCourt, 16 Piedmont Street.

### **PARKING PROBLEMS**

Some neighbors have been experiencing difficulty in finding available parking on the street and there seems to be less meter maid presence in the neighborhood. If you note that there are non-resident cars parked in Village spaces, please take the time to call the Transportation Department at 635-3125.

There are on-going problems with buses parked on Charles Street South, Marginal Road and the bridge over the Massachusetts Turnpike. If the buses are parked with the motor running, this is a fineable offense and the Police Department should be notified at 343-4240. Keep your eyes and ears open, and take action. You can help improve the quality of life in Bay Village by simply making a phone call.