

The Bay Village News

Volume 16, Issue 2 617-542-BVNA www.bayvillage.net June 2007

SPRING IS HERE!

NICE SAVE: RAINED-OUT YARD SALE RE-SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 9

We will hold our neighborhood Yard Sale on Saturday, June 9 (rain date Sunday, June 10). If any new households want to participate, please call **Len Phillips** at 617-817-5011; he will collect your \$10 fee to help defray new publicity costs.

Sellers will set up (using their own tables) at designated locations on Church Street, or in front of their houses. We're printing up flyers and cards to give out and to post.

We would appreciate if any of the previous players who plan to participate on the new date could chip in an additional two or three dollars. We also will seek free listings in the local newspapers' calendar sections.

The time has come for spring cleaning and snapping up some neighborhood bargains! !

GREENSPACE NEWS

from Friends of Bay Village Parks

by Shirley Thorne, 617-426-6365.

Now that spring is here and flowering window boxes and barrels are brightening our streetscape, the Friends of Elliot Norton Park and Bay Village Parks invite all residents of Bay Village to help with plans and activities in our four neighborhood parks.

The Friends of Elliot Norton Park and Bay Village Parks is a charitable organization devoted to preserving, maintaining and enhancing the parks and greenspaces in and around Bay Village. We are a separate organization from the BVNA, and invite all to join with their tax deductible contribution.

Membership form is on page 11.

We also appointed a Nominating Committee to present a slate of officers to be voted upon as soon as our By-Laws have been revised. The proposed slate is: **Richard Junghans**, Lyndeboro Place, President; **Doug Fiebelkorn**, Treasurer; and **Christine Colley**, Melrose Street, Clerk.

Domenic Mastrototaro, Jefferson Street, our indefatigable gardener, continues in this position and **Tom Kauycheck**, Fayette Street, continues as the incomparable garden tender at the Bay Village Neighborhood Park on Charles Street South.

Elliot Norton Park is our largest greenspace and a community crossroad used by Bay Village, Chinatown, and the theatre district. It is home to pre-schoolers in the playground, summer theatre and arts groups, and office workers dreaming under the trees during lunchtime. At our next meeting, we'll hear plans for beautifying this important resource.

The Isabella Street Park, our newest addition to the Bay Village Parks, is overseen by a combination of the firemen at Ladder 17 on Columbus Avenue and **Jo Campbell**, Church Street, and her able crew. The latter group also will continue to make the quiet, shaded Bay Village Garden on the corner of Melrose and Church Streets an inviting rest stop any time of day.

If you'd like to help take care of barrels near your house, volunteer with park or garden maintenance or spruce up the tree wells--to name a few activities--please let me know.

I will pass on suggestions once the new slate of officers is elected later this Spring.

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by Mark Slater.



I will start (and end) by reminding everyone that its time to renew your membership in the BVNA (or join). Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30, so start searching your sofas for the small amount of coinage required to be a member for another year. Membership forms are in this fine newsletter, and can also be found on-line at www.bayvillage.net/join.

Our extremely modest dues don't even cover all our expenses of flower planting, hosting social events, clean-ups, and administrative expenses for the surprisingly large volume of correspondence and material we present to local politicians. (Thanks to the stellar efforts of **Nancy Morrisroe** and **Betsy Roxby** over the last few years, we've been able to maintain healthy finances.) We're really not looking to deplete anyone's checking account.

We need as large a number of members as possible, since that's what local government agencies and politicians look at when we lobby for Bay Village. If you don't have time to volunteer, please try to find a few minutes to join and add your voice to your neighbors. Membership numbers make an extraordinary difference in our ability to get attention and action on all the things that make Bay Village a better place to live: crime, bar licensing, planning and building construction, and other city services.

I was planning on giving everyone a respite from news about the Silver Line, as the next phase of public comment doesn't start until late 2007 or early 2008. Alas, the MBTA decided to start drilling up our streets with leftover oil rigs from the movie "Giant."

This work is not preparation for imminent construction of the Silver Line. Bay Village Soil samples and groundwater testing have been required by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, thanks, in part, to our efforts and those of our excellent State Representative, **Sal DiMasi**, Speaker of the House.

For a variety of reasons, Bay Village is extremely poorly documented with regard to soil composition (is our 'hood gonna shake like a jelly bowl due to construction and operations?) and groundwater levels and flows, even by Boston's admittedly low historic standards. The MBTA is under order to evaluate the tunnel between Boylston Street and South Station (the "core tunnel") and five different configurations of portals (the ramp into the tunnel) and street alignments. While all of the other configurations have had extensive building work over the last 10 to 20 years, providing a pretty good idea of sub-surface conditions, Bay Village is a data vacuum. Hence the work here.

Communication about this work was not good, and we were all left in the dark about drilling locations, nature of work, timetable, street closing, etc. The good and bad news are the same: they're almost done. The current work will be incorporated into the MBTA's next Environmental Impact Report, expected in late 2007 or early 2008. There's nothing for us to do as a group until that time.

This project is still unfunded at the State and Federal levels, with the exception of the amounts needed to do preliminary engineering and environmental work and the actual design. We have a long way to go before the 'hood is bulldozed or the project is killed or amended to avoid Bay Village, and I'm putting my money on the latter.

Behind the scenes, BVNA has been working assiduously, as always, on all the things that threaten our small, urban oasis:

- Thanks to **Jim McCormick** and **Sarah Herlihy**, we had another great Spring cleaning in April. Seem brighter at night? That's thanks to their efforts on performing a comprehensive survey of our street lights and sidewalks. Street lights repaired, we're turning our attention to getting some attention for our sidewalks.

(President's letter continued on Page 4.)

**Note from your Editor,
Kathleen McDermott**

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter. Thanks to everyone who contributed articles, photos, information, and advice, including **Becca Blumm, Mark Slater, Jo Campbell, Michele Cotler, China Altman, Stephanie Howard, Charlotte Goddu, Doug Fiebelkorn, Lorraine Hoyt, Barbara Gaffney, Judy Komarow, Brian Callaghan, Aoife Austin, Doug Hill, Nancy Morrisroe, John Cerone, Kelly Griffin, Bill Nigreen, Brian Boisvert, Shirley Thorne, Leslie Colburn, Sue Buta, Bill Raye, Jim McCormick, Sarah Herlihy, Len Phillips.**



I invite you to use this Newsletter as a forum to tell your Bay Village story. Photos are welcome, or email me and I'll come by and take a snap.

Not Goodbye, Just Congratulations!

by Leslie Colburn, Church Street.

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It is a rare occasion in our very small neighborhood when we can celebrate the high school graduations of two Bay Village "lifers." Both born and raised in our fair hamlet, **Anna Giangregorio** of Church Street and **Kenzie Bok** of Melrose Street (growing up, at left) have graced the block parties, street fairs, cleanup days, house tours, meetings, and the coffee shop at 12 Church Street for some eighteen years--so many birthday parties and Halloween gatherings at the homes of wonderful neighbors.

These hardworking, community-spirited young women have been a huge asset wherever their commitments have led them and are well loved by all who know them.

Kenzie, graduating from Milton Academy, will attend Harvard University in Cambridge. Anna, graduating from Boston Latin Academy, will be heading to Geneva, New York, to attend Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

As they venture out into the world, their Bay Village family proudly sends them off with best wishes and hearty congratulations!

THE BAY VILLAGE NEWS **AVAILABLE ON LINE**

The Bay Village News is published four times a year by BVNA. Full-color versions of the newsletter (past issues go back to 1998) are available at the BVNA website, www.bayvillage.net.

CHECK OUR COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD!

Notices regarding all important community issues and meetings are always posted on the bulletin board at the Bay Village Garden (corner of Melrose and Church Streets).

PLEASE REPORT ILLEGALLY PARKED, NON-RESIDENT CARS

The Traffic and Parking Department has a special "enforcement line" to report illegally parked, non-resident cars. If a resident reports an illegally parked car, and can describe the exact location and make of the vehicle, the Department will call a nearby Meter Maid/Man on a cell phone to ticket the illegal car--ASAP! The "enforcement line" is 617-635-3125.

THANK YOU CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEERS!

Dana Masterpolo, John Shope, Selaphie Dagault, Greg Poulos, Judy Komarow, Bruce Pettigill, Doug Hill, Terri Previte, Paulina Ramirez, Krulewitch boys, Elizabeth Reluga, June McCourt, Stephanie Markos, Aoife Austin, Jean-Jacques Pierrat, Jim McCormick, Ben Beck, Mary Teeven, Jo Campbell, Beth Terry, Brendan Greeley, Bette Greene, Chris and Nate Goddu, Jeff Blind, Katherine Hagman, Ian Williams, Betsy Roxby, Hugo Cunningham, Jack and Emily Kemp, Francine Pilgrim, Michele Cotler, Matt Feiner, Neal and Myles Siskind, Paul and Sarah Buta, Stuart McGarrity, Marianne Francis, Rocque Dion, David Wright, Brian Callaghan, Rob Gagnon.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(cont'd. from page 2).

- Our Licensing genius, **Len Phillips**, has added another name to the list of nearby restaurants entering into binding agreements with the BVNA, limiting the scope for anti-social behavior. With the exception of establishments on Warrenton and Broadway, we've entered into such agreements with all local establishments. And proving that these aren't empty agreements and that standards are enforced, The Boston Licensing Board is taking disciplinary action against a local establishment at our request. The BVNA's efforts really do make a tremendous difference in our quality of life.

- Our spring planting season has been a tremendous success, as always, with flowers in all our parks and planters, thanks to the efforts of Jo Campbell and to our sister organization, The Friends of Bay Village and Elliott Norton Parks. **Shirley Thorne**, the retiring President of the Friends, has done a lovely job. Smile when you see her!

Lastly, I forgot to mention that we need you to renew your membership in the BVNA.....

Cheers,
Mark Slater

CITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

by City Services Committee co-chairs **Sarah Herlihy** (sbherlihy@yahoo.com), Piedmont Street, and **Jim McCormick** (jamesdmccormick@comcast.net), Melrose Street.

More than forty Bay Village residents turned out on April 28 for another great neighborhood clean-up (see names listed at left). Our thanks to the Mayor's office, the Radisson Hotel (for free parking the morning of the cleanup), and Rachel's Kitchen for their support of this event!

Now that we're clean, let's pitch in and keep it clean! Pick up in front of your house and remind your neighbors to put out their trash in the morning, rather than the night before.

The City Services co-chairs continue to work with the City to assess the condition of the sidewalks in Bay Village. This issue will take some time and effort to address, but we'll update you as soon as we have some progress. In the meantime, please e-mail the co-chairs if you see a street light out or loose bricks.

2006-2007 BVNA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President: **Mark Slater**
 Senior Vice President: **Doug Fiebelkorn**
 Vice President: **Neal Siskind**
 Archives: **Jean Yee Quintal**
 Co-Beautification: **Jo Campbell**
 Co-Beautification and Liaison to Friends of Bay Village Parks, Inc.: **Shirley Thorne**
 Co-Traffic/City Services: **Jim McCormick, Sarah Herlihy**
 Communications: **Kathleen McDermott**
 Community Relations: **Jo Campbell**
 Social/Membership: **Rocque Dion, Mary Teeven**
 Recorder: **Michael Rosenzweig**
 Registrar: **Doug Hill**
 Co-School Liaison: **Sue Buta, Shirley Thorne**
 Co-Crime: **Chris Goddu, Emily Kemp**
 Co-Licensing: **Len Phillips, Neal Siskind**
 Co-Planning: **Francine Pilgrim, Tom Bures**
 Treasurer: **George Moccia**
 Website: **Chris Gorglione**
 Co-Fundraising: **Betsy Roxby, Nancy Morrisroe**
 Groundwater: **Iain Webb**
 Silver Line: **Dana Masterpolo**
 At Large: **Barbara Gaffney, John Shope, Brian Boisvert, China Altman, Becca Blumm, Bruce Steeves, Melissa Parente, Judy Komarow, Gaye Bok.**

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

by **Bill Nigreen**.

Bay Village is noted for its great location and for good reason—not the least of which is the short five minute walk to the Boston Center for the Arts. The BCA is Boston's most vibrant urban gathering place, connecting diverse people and new ideas through the art of our times.

Something exciting is always happening, with five live theaters, visual arts and artists' talks in the Mills Gallery, special events in the Cyclorama, as well as local boutiques and restaurants along Tremont Street. This entire city block is home to an impressive roster of artists and arts organizations, including the Community Music Center of Boston, the Boston Ballet, and the Topf Center for Dance Education. And now Boston's newest jazz club--"The Beehive"--just opened, playing live jazz seven nights a week!

Please consider becoming a member of the BCA. Valuable member benefits include seasonal brochures and monthly email notices to keep you up to date on BCA cultural events, an ArtPass discount of 10% on BCA shows and participating South End restaurants and shops and, finally, invitations to opening receptions, artists' talks, and special events.

Memberships cost \$50 (\$35 students/seniors). You may sign up directly at bcaonline.org (click join, then membership). Or for more info, email **Bill Nigreen** (bill@nigreen.com), Fayette Street, **David Lapin** (lapin@cmcb.org), Winchester Street, or **Mary Darmstaetter** (DarmME96@aol.com), Broadway.

Brownies Girl Scouts News

By **Sue Buta**, Knox Street (sue@buta.org).

Bay Village-based Brownie Troop #9258 enjoyed exploring colors and shapes with Bay Village resident and public school art teacher **Judy Komarow**. She taught the girls to make their own color wheel and how to use those colors to create a collage. The girls loved the day and, of course, thought Judy was the cat's meow! Thanks again, Judy!

The girls are taking a giant step developmental step! The troop attended their first overnight experience at the Chinatown home of Troop #9282's leader. This first indoor overnight was in preparation to join five other troops in the Boston Area for an overnight "Bay Encampment" at a local Girl Scout Camp.

Many thanks to Bay Village for helping us earn cookie money so that we can enjoy these fun, but expensive trips!

LICENSING COMMITTEE NOTES

by **Len Phillips**.

1. As of this moment, the BVNA is still discussing with the license applicants the necessary conditions so that the BVNA does not oppose a food and alcoholic beverage license at the old Dedo premises. There is agreement on many conditions, but important considerations remain unresolved. The intent of the BVNA is to represent the opinions of the majority of Bay Village residents, and to allow only for a neighborhood restaurant that will be totally compatible with the residential nature of Bay Village.

2. The BVNA did not oppose the proposed transfer of the Piattini license on Columbus Avenue to a group of restaurant professionals who plan to open "Otto Regione," an upscale Italian restaurant. They have signed the usual BVNA agreement regarding hours, trash, etc., and we feel that they will be a beneficial near-neighborhood presence.

Planning Committee issues within Bay Village were minimal during the past quarter.

The Licensing Committee works on all licensing issues which may affect the neighborhood, including service of alcohol, beer and wine, and food. The Planning Committee works on zoning and building issues that may affect the neighborhood.

All neighbors are welcome to attend and BVNA members are invited to join the committee. The Licensing and Planning Committees meet jointly on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Boston Renaissance Charter School at the corner of Stuart and Arlington Streets.

THREE GREAT WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AND HELP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

1. **Join BVNA** - Your dues help in many ways, such as dealing with crime, improving our quality of life, beautification, social activities (membership form is on Page 10 or www.bayvillage.net/join).
2. **Volunteer** - Throughout the year we ask neighbors to help with clean-up days, wreath hangings, and caring for our parks. There are also many things that can be done from home so you won't need to attend meetings or come to events.
3. **Write** to the Mayor and City Councilors and attend public meetings of the Historic District Commission, the Licensing Board, the Zoning Board of Appeal, to ensure that our neighborhood is represented.

To get involved, drop an email to BVNA President **Mark Slater** at markslater@alum.mit.edu or call the BVNA hotline at 617-542-BVNA and leave a message for your area of interest.

Together we make things better!

RENAISSANCE SCHOOL PLANS TO LEAVE STUART STREET IN A YEAR

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by Shirley Thorne.

The Renaissance Charter School, our neighbor for several years, is in negotiations for a building with more indoor and outdoor space. They will continue to be our neighbors for at least another year. This past year has been a successful one with a delightful outdoor concert on May 11 in preparation for the glee club's Washington tour; they traveled around that city and sang at several schools.

Sixth grade students will celebrate their last year at the Renaissance School at 11 a.m. on June 11 in the Grand Ballroom of the Park Plaza Hotel. All are invited.

All Bay Village residents are invited to participate in the Annual Recognition Assembly on June 19 to honor friends, families, businesses, and the community. It will be held in Dodge Auditorium, at 250 Stuart Street, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Please RSVP to jdugan@bostonrenaissance.org or call 617 357 0900X1005.

ILLEGAL BUS IDLING ON SOUTH CHARLES STREET

The BVNA continues to work with the City and managers of Blue Man Group, Shear Madness, and the Charles Playhouse to end the illegal bus idling on Charles Street South.

New bus parking signs have gone up on Tremont Street for the buses that serve these shows, but we are waiting for the city to update its website to identify this new location for tour bus operators.

If you see buses idling on Charles Street South, please take a minute to note the tour bus name and its license plate, and email this information to kathleenmcd@att.net.

BTD also will be posting "no idling" signs on Charles Street South.

TRASH RULES AND VIOLATIONS

Regular Trash Pick-Up for Fayette, Melrose, Jefferson, Church, Winchester, South Cedar Way, Piedmont, Shawmut, and Broadway: Monday, Wednesday, Friday; Recycling Day is Friday.

Trash Pick-Up for Arlington, Cortes, and Isabella: Monday and Thursday; Recycling Day is Monday.

City regulations prohibit putting out trash before 5 p.m. the day before trash day. Use large, tightly-tied 2-mil plastic bags rather than open paper bags. It's best to put trash out the morning of pick-up to reduce the potential for garbage to spill out on the sidewalk and for rats to have a picnic.

If a neighbor puts out trash too early or on the wrong day, or if there is an unsanitary situation, drop a line to our City Services Committee co-chairs **Sarah Herlihy** (sbherlihy@yahoo.com) or **Jim McCormick** (jamesdmccormick@comcast.net), or call ISD Code Enforcement at 617-635-4896. They will send an inspector and issue a violation. The fines for overflowing residential trash is \$50 and residential trash put out too early, or on the wrong day, will result in a \$25 fine.

Michele Cotler and **Matt Feiner** of Fayette Street announce their wedding on July 21. **Joe Kennedy** and **Kelly Griffin** of Fayette Street are engaged and will marry this December on Cape Cod. **Bill Raye** of Melrose Street just started a new job at Baron Associates selling real estate. We'll miss **Derek Cavanaugh** and **John Fabiano** who recently moved from Fayette Street to the South End. They've promised to remain frequent visitors to our neighborhood. **John Cerone** of Fayette Street is a Fulbright Senior Specialist in International Law and is teaching an intensive course in International Human Rights Law in the Peace & Conflict Studies (PCS) Division at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. The PCS Division is a graduate program that brings in students from all over the world to study conflict management and peace-building. Later this summer John will be traveling to Phnom Penh to train the prosecution staff of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the UN-supported tribunal established to prosecute those most responsible for the Khmer Rouge atrocities committed in the late 1970s.



Charlotte Goddu, aged 10, of Fayette Street, sent in these photos of her cats, **McGonagall** (left) and **Hermione** (right). The kittens "are about eight months old and are named after characters in *Harry Potter*. They are sisters and like to sit by open windows. They are very wily and have managed to slip out of their collars about four times each."



Ben Beck and **Stephanie Howard** proudly announce the April 5 birth of their daughter **Ellen Dale Beck**.



The **Hoyt-Rouse** family of Winchester Street, from left to right: **Yeruksew**, **Lorlene**, **Mitiku**, and **Cynthia** skiing at the Sundance Resort in Utah this past February.

Becca Blumm and **David Connors** sold their Melrose Street condo and will move in July. We'll miss them and baby **Reese**. **Domenic Mastrototaro**, Jefferson Street, continues his career as an opera supernumerary, appearing most recently in Boston Lyric Opera's acclaimed production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. **Barbara Gaffney** of Melrose Street announces that her son has successfully defended his dissertation and is now Dr. **Jebediah Gaffney**. She also reports that the oldest dog in Bay Village, **Zak** the vizsla, continues to chug along--though slowly--as he approaches his 17th birthday.



Nancy Morrisroe of Melrose Street sent in this photo and report: “**Mark and Isabel Slater** enjoyed posing for the camera on Harbour Island in the Bahamas. The **Morrisroe-Slater** family enjoyed their first winter getaway since the arrival of their blessed wonder!!”

Paul Anagnostos of Melrose Street is moving after eight years in Bay Village; he asked that this “For Sale” item of neighborhood interest be announced: *“Professionally framed 1895 precinct map of Boston wards 7, 10, and 11, taken from the Atlas of the City of Boston. Published by G.W. Bromley & Co. Shows all of Bay Village plus parts of Back Bay and South End. Fascinating look at the old street configurations, rail lines and buildings in our neighborhood. Framed size is 41” wide by 31” high. \$125.”* Call Paul at 617-451-1717. **China Altman**, Melrose Street, announces that Tuesday, June 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., is official opening day and celebration for the 2007 Rose Season--the 20th--in the Public Garden; all are welcome. Anyone interested in knowing more or in helping to care for the roses can go to the Friends of the Public Garden's website and click on Rose Brigade: www.friendsofthepublicgarden.org/. **Bette Greene** of Church Street is “seeking everybody's best, funniest, ‘Do Not Let A Good Turn Go Unpunished’ stories. Book acknowledgments offered.” Contact her at bettegreene@comcast.net.

Do you like Tasty Tidbits?
 Would you like to see more?
 Send us yours for the next issue.
 No “bit” too small!
 Email me at kathleenmcd@att.net
 with short news items or photos about weddings, new babies, new neighbors, pets, life transitions, and any other notable developments.

JUNE IS BAY VILLAGE MEMBERSHIP MONTH!

by **Douglas Hill**, BVNA Registrar (dhillbv@aol.com).

It's time to join or renew your Bay Village Neighborhood Association membership. Memberships run from July 1 through June 30 and we would like to get everyone living in Bay Village to be a member. Membership in the organization gives our small neighborhood a big voice within the city of Boston. Politicians, the Mayor, the BRA, MBTA, and the Boston Licensing Board--to name a few--all care about how many residents are BVNA members when determining whether to pay attention to our neighborhood needs. Membership also gives you access to email updates of ongoing neighborhood issues, and free or reduced ticket prices to neighborhood parties and events (always a great way to meet and get to know your neighbors).

So renew today and ask your neighbor to join as well! It's easy to join--just fill out the application on Page 10, or go on line to the BVNA web site, www.bayvillage.net and download a membership application. If you email me, I'd be happy to send it to you or drop an application by your home.

For new members of the BVNA – WELCOME! For returning members -- THANK YOU for your continued support and interest in our wonderful neighborhood.

GRAFFITI REPORTING The City of Boston's website for reporting graffiti for removal from public buildings, mailboxes, light poles, etc., is www.cityofboston.gov/graffitibusters. It is a simple matter of completing the form and sending an email. The City responds quickly. Property owners must also complete a property owner waiver form, available at www.cityofboston.gov/graffitibusters/agreement.asp.

VOLUNTEERING IN BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

On a warm and sunny Mothers' Day, China Altman of Melrose Street organized a group of fellow Melrose Streeters to work on the park.

At right, **John Nychay** prunes rose bushes.



Judy Komarow cleans up last winter's debris. Not pictured--her cat **Pumpkin** who also came to the park that day.



Lisa Amatangel carries the waterbucket. The city had not yet turned on the park's water supply and the Chinese Church kindly allowed access to its outdoor faucet.



SPRINGTIME IN BAY VILLAGE 9

by Jo Campbell.

Green thumbs in Bay Village came through this Spring with spectacular displays of pansies, tulips, daffodils, irises, and johnny-jump-ups that brightened our neighborhood just in time for Easter.

The Number One Early Bird award goes to the urns at 18 Melrose Street followed in quick succession by 20 Fayette Street's barrels, 37 Fayette Street's window boxes and entrance, 26 Melrose Street's window boxes and matching barrels, 45 Church Street's barrels, the window boxes at 37 Melrose Street and --a new entry--the urns at 17 Melrose Street.

Thank you all for your efforts.

The shady Bay Village Garden at Melrose and Church streets will be planted with impatiens in the next week or so. Pansies are already blooming and we spread mulch after the rains ended. Thanks to volunteers **Richard, Francine, Rocque, Keith, Brian**, and everyone else who helped with planting and carting flowers and mulch from garden centers.

Isabella Street Park has sunshine all day and will be full of flowering plants shortly. The wintered-over geraniums are blooming already, thanks to Rocque's early planting. **Doug Fiebelkorn** donated three lovely evergreen trees, which were planted by Fireman **John DuBeau**. Thank you all.

Let's make June Beautification Month. Adopt a barrel, plant a window box, volunteer! There's a little green thumb in everyone and it's fun. Keep BAY VILLAGE the best and most beautiful neighborhood in Boston!

Free Arts and Crafts for Kids in Elliot Norton Park

by Judy Komarow.

From July 10 to August 17 I will be leading free arts and crafts in The Elliot Norton Park on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon as part of the Boston Parks & Recreation Department's ParkArts program.

Neighborhood children aged 3 to 10 are invited and must be accompanied by an adult.

Additionally, kids are welcome at the June 29 opening celebration of the Frog Pond on the Boston Common from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We'll have free arts and crafts.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Be a volunteer! Spring is here, flowers are blooming! If you have a green thumb--and even if you don't but would like to get involved in the parks and garden that Bay Village cares for--volunteer a little time. Thirty minutes, sixty minutes--whatever you can spare. Once a week or once a month. Just DO it, it's fun!

PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!

Bay Village is a very dog-friendly neighborhood but we have a major problem that needs to be addressed.

Certain resident dog owners do NOT pick up after their dogs. They are rude, irresponsible dog people who give all caring pet owners a bad reputation. They are repeat offenders who soil flower beds, tree pits, sidewalks, even the dog park!

If you have any suggestions on how to get rude, uncaring people to act responsibly, please leave a message on the BVNA hotline (617-542-BVNA).

Remember, it is not the dog, it is the person on the other end of the leash that is the problem.

Help keep Bay Village the best neighborhood in Boston.

Helpful Tips from a Neighbor

As you walk by the beautiful flowering barrels and window boxes, PLEASE feel free to give them a splash if they're wilting away. Even if you didn't plant them yourself, the occasional drink of water is much appreciated and helps keep everything green and thriving.

On a similar note, if your dog frequently "waters" the sidewalk in the same spot and we're going through a dry spell, feel free to wash that spot down with some water, too.

After a week or two with no rain, the sidewalks can get a little ripe.

If you're so inclined, the occasional curbside sweep in the summertime ensures that litter and dust don't doesn't accumulate on the streets.

Refraining from putting out your trash until the morning of trash day GREATLY helps to keep rats away and prevents pickers from ripping the bags apart overnight looking for goodies. It can also help prevent identity theft. If you don't recycle those 5 cent deposit cans and bottles, put them in a small separate bag so pickers won't tear open the large trash bags.

Bay Village Neighborhood Association Membership Application

Name: _____ Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____
E-mail address: _____
Street address: _____ Unit/Apartment#: _____

Membership runs from July 1 through June 30. Members will be asked to renew every July 1.

Type of Membership:

- Individual \$ 10.00
- Family \$ 15.00
- Business \$ 50.00
- Senior \$ 5.00
- Student \$ 5.00
- Donations \$ _____

Interests:

- Beautification
- Fundraising
- Social Activities
- Communications
- Public Relations
- Crime Prevention
- City Services
- Archives
- Membership
- Planning/Zoning
- Licensing
- Website

If you chose Family membership, please list individual family members below:

* Mail membership form to Registrar P.O. Box 1296, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

The By-laws of the Association limit VOTING membership to residents and/or owners of property within Bay Village. Anyone can join as a non-voting member!

Aoife Austin of Arlington Street took this picture of a Bay Village raccoon climbing her fourth floor fire escape. Several days later, your editor also found a raccoon on her Fayette Street roof deck. They are beautiful creatures, but they can be dangerous. After we shooed it away with water from our garden hose, we watched it climb straight up a brick wall.



Here's the advice of the City of Boston Animal Care and Control webpage (<http://www.cityofboston.gov/animalcontrol/wildlife.asp>):

"RACCOON ON PORCH

Make sure that your porch is free of garbage and recycling. If you must store garbage on your porch, make sure it is properly contained. The raccoon will probably leave that night to hunt for food. It will climb down the same way it climbed up. If you need access to this porch, the raccoon can simply be frightened away. Be cautious when scaring the raccoon away because they may get aggressive in their defense (can you blame them?)."

**Friends of Elliot Norton Park
/Friends of Bay Village Parks**

Membership Form

Any contribution is welcome. A Member is a person or organization who has contributed at least \$25 that year, payable to "Friends of Bay Village Parks," and can vote in the election of officers.

Name _____

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Date _____

CALL 911 WHENEVER YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Whenever you see any suspicious activity (that may be someone sitting on a front stoop engaging in drug consumption or someone walking up and down the street looking out of place), call 911 and report it.

The police may not respond immediately, but they will respond eventually and that will mean more of a police presence in our neighborhood.

Police coverage in Boston is determined by the level of 911 calls, so don't hesitate to report any problems.

The police cannot be in our neighborhood 24/7, but we are.

We need to take responsibility for our neighborhood.

One of our local officers is **Ramadani Abdul-Aziz** -- say hello when you see him and offer him a cup of coffee. It's nice to let him know we appreciate his presence. As always, please e-mail BVNA Crime Committee Chair **Chris Goddu** with any questions and concerns: crime@bayvillage.net.



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