



WABAN IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

Our Village

Letter from Our President

Dear Neighbors,

Spring is in the air but before I tell you all that the Waban Improvement Society is working on this season, I must recap what happened this winter. In December we held our annual Tree Lighting and Sing-Along. This year's effort, called Waban Lights, was bigger and better than ever. It was a great success with over 200 Waban neighbors sharing in the spirit of the winter season. We were blessed with a perfect night in the center of Waban Square to see so many neighbors come out to share some beautiful music, performed by Waban's own Kelly Petracca, Julia Priest and Allegra Borak. The best part was enjoying the lighting of our beautiful evergreen.



In March, we had our Fourth Annual Progressive Dinner, another great success with over 90 neighbors participating. Mark your calendar for the Fifth Annual Progressive Dinner, the date is tentatively set for March 22, 2008.

More events are happening in our wonderful Village for Spring. Plans are under way for our Third Annual Waban Village Day and Second Annual Family 5K Fun Run on Sunday, May 20. Village Day will start at 11AM, preceded by the Family Fun Run at 10AM. Read more about Village Day in this issue and on www.wabanimprovement.org.

The Waban Improvement Society is always trying to improve. To that end, we have added a scholarship fund (read on for more details or check the Web site).

With so much going on in our village, we need your help and support more than ever. I urge you to consider joining a committee (Welcome Neighbor especially needs volunteers, see the Web site). And I hope you come out to enjoy Waban Village Day. See you there!

Warm regards, Theresa Fitzpatrick, *President*

Announcing New WIS Scholarship

The Waban Improvement Society is proud to announce the establishment of a Scholarship Fund that will award a scholarship grant to a graduating high school senior at the end of each school year. Information about this scholarship will be provided to the local high schools prior to the school year's end. To apply, a student must be a resident of Waban and demonstrate his/her participation in an activity or community service for the village of Waban and/or the greater Newton community. The first scholarship will be awarded in June of 2008. More information will be available on the WIS Web site shortly.

Join Us on Waban Village Day 2007

The third annual Waban Village Day is slated for Sunday, May 20 from 11AM to 3PM in the square on Wyman St. This exciting event will be preceded by the second annual Waban Fun at 10AM. The Waban

Improvement Society expects the day to be great fun for Wabanites and visitors of all ages. Please join us in hoping for pleasant weather like last year as there is no rain date (fingers crossed!).

In addition to our enticing entertainment lineup (see below), we will have tables with goods from local merchants, children's rides, a petting zoo and food to purchase.

(Continued on page 4)

KEY DATES

- **May 20, 2007
10AM**
Waban Fun Run
- **May 20, 2007
11AM —3PM**
Waban Village Day
- **Dec. 31, 2007**
Black & White New Year's Ball

I remember when...

Annawan Neighborhood in the 1930s and 1940s

My father and grandmother bought our house on Annawan Road about three weeks after I was born. The deed was dated January 18, 1929. My birthday was the 26th of December, and no doubt my mother was thrilled by such a Christmas present. My grandmother was a widow and lived with us until her death in 1952.

Annawan Road was a private way from Waban Avenue to the western border of our land, and it was a dirt road until some time in the late '30s or early '40s when the City finally decided to accept it. For some odd reason, the rest of the road, from our land all the way down to Quinobequin Rd., had been accepted and was paved.

Sometime in the '30s, a "developer," Charles D. Train, began building houses in Waban. Until he got to Annawan Road there were no houses on the north side of the road west of our house, #41. It was woods and fields all the way to Quinobequin Road. On the south side, there was a house across from ours, # 42 - a rather strange "French Provincial" style with a round turret. Below it was one more house, # 52. After that, there was nothing else on Annawan Road. There were just two houses on the east side of Gould Road, # 12 and #18. That road was unpaved from just beyond the second house down to Quinobequin. Edgefield Rd., which we kids called the "mountainside" road, was barely passable. Ruddy and full of potholes, a lumpy dirt road, it connected Gould and Annawan Roads.

Most of the land from the intersection of Annawan and Gould Roads down to Quinobequin was open field or brush. Some farmer mowed parts of it for hay in the summers. He would leave his equipment overnight and kids would sit on the old metal seats and pretend to be driving the horse. Periodically there would be a brush fire and we would rush down to watch the firemen put it out. These open areas were our playground, but we were warned never to go near the river. That was a very positive no-no for small kids in those days.

Read more of George Nugent's remembrances at www.wabanimprovement.org.



Maine resident George Nugent was born in Waban and lived here until 1950. At left is the dashing Lt. J.G. George Nugent USNR in 1953.

Get Involved!

The Waban Improvement Society invites you to join your neighbors and lend a helping hand to one or more of our committees. Committees include events like Waban Village Day, gardening, neighborhood advocacy and Welcome Neighbor. Please contact a WIS officer or board member to get involved today!

Visit

www.wabanimprovement.org

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We welcome your calls.

www.wabanimprovement.org

Save the date! Black & White New Year's Eve Ball

Get ready to trip the light fantastic! Glamour and glitz return to Waban, and it's about time! Men, time to work out and trim down to fit into those tuxes. Ladies, you can finally take out that fine jewelry and wear that great formal dress hiding in the closet. The Waban Improvement Society invites you to ring in the New Year with a full sit-down dinner from Waban's Kouzina, free-flowing wine and champagne, and live music and dancing to Clockwork - one of the best bands in New England. This special event will be held at the Windsor Club--no long-distance driving. Seating will be limited, so contact a WIS board member if you want to get tickets. Committees are being formed for the B&W Ball, if you would like to help.



Waban Sound Barrier Update

Good news: Plans for the sound barrier along 128/95 in Waban are moving forward. In December a contract was signed between Mass. Highway and its design consultants, allowing the design process to continue. Mass. Highway anticipates the design to be 25% complete sometime in late spring or early summer of this year. At that point a public meeting will be held.



A core group of residents are in constant communication with representatives from Mass. Highway to keep abreast of their progress, as well as to speak with legislative representatives to obtain their assistance in securing funding for the project. For information, to donate or to keep abreast of the next meeting, check the Web site at www.wabansoundbarrier.com



First Waban Lights a Shining Success

Waban Pride shone brightly on Sunday, December 4, 2006, at our Annual Tree Lighting, Waban Lights!

Over 200 people crowded the streets around our lofty evergreen and sang songs, sipped steaming coffee and cocoa, munched cookies and helped count down the lighting of the tree. The Waban Improvement Society is very grateful to all the Waban Lights volunteers, donors and above all, our corporate sponsor, Zoots, for their support in ensuring that the tree was perfectly illuminated, befitting our special village. We are also thankful for the expert service we received from Christmas Decor by Green-Lawn for their extra efforts to make our winter season so bright.--
Sarah Gardella

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Waban Village Day 2007 (continued)

2007 WVD Entertainment Lineup

Two characteristics have distinguished the entertainment at Waban Village Day over the last two years; first, national and internationally recognized professional artists, and second, local connections. This year's lineup follows this tradition.

Starting off the festivities at 11AM is Waban's own Julia Priest. When she's not leading workshops for music teachers and preschool teachers at BU, New England Conservatory, or other colleges, she runs the nationally acclaimed Music Together program teaching the youngest children the joy of music. Julia always comes prepared with instruments to hand out, so the audience can play too. www.musictogethernewton.com/



Derrick Clark runs several Karate schools including the one in Waban Square. Over the years, this 5th degree Black Belt and his crew of energetic champions have

taught hundreds of students the code of the martial art: Constant self improvement, Always be truthful, Always maintain a willing spirit, Respect others and Maintain self-control. His demonstration team will perform at 11:30AM. www.clarkselfdefense.com/

In previous years, well known bands with local ties have taken the noon time stage and this year is no different with World Beat performing. New this year will be some hip hop music and hip hop dance lessons provided by Siagel Productions and the Dance Academy.

While Chris Pitts can be found during the day at yoga classes at the Windsor Club or teaching French at Angier and Pierce schools, at night he plays the sax. For over three decades, Pitts has led his own big bands and small groups, and performed with everyone from Aretha Franklin and Dizzy Gillespie to Liberace and Bill Clinton. This year he joins a World Music band with NE conservatory bassist Wes Wirth. www.jazznation.com --Lauren Paul