



What's U.P.

Union Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter March, 2011



FRANK TALKING!

President's Corner - Jerry Frank

This winter's weather did nothing but impede all efforts to keep our streets, sidewalks and alleys clear of trash. Repeated snow falls and persistent below freezing temperatures caused a rare accumulation of snow and ice that hampered the city's collection and our regular post clean-up activity.

As a result, we've asked our clean-up contractor, Charlie Twitchell, to work extra days as the snow and ice disappear. This will make a huge difference in the appearance of our neighborhood in the early spring.

The penalty for this extra effort is that we will overspend our clean-up budget. But, if we must overspend, this is probably the best time of the year to do so! Why? Well, its "kick-off" time for our 2011 fund raising campaign, and my hope is that I can convince every regular donor to add a mere \$5.00 to their regular contribution. This will help keep your streets clean without deficit spending. All in all- a terrific reward for a small investment!

Best regards,

Jerry Frank

40-42 Upton Street Project

Pine Street Inn construction will start soon

Jerry Frank and James Alan Fox, representatives of the UPNA, met with a group of individuals representing The Pine Street Inn, The Planning Office of Urban Affairs (POUA), and NEI General Contracting on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011.

The meeting was successful in establishing a line of communication between the UPNA and the development group who will be working on the upcoming project at 40-42 Upton Street.

Additionally, the UPNA presented input from abutters and near neighbors collected prior to the meeting to assure that the quality of life on the street will be preserved for the duration of the construction project.

There were eight areas of concern and they were identified as follows:

... In general, the project should be completed in a reasonable time frame after work has begun. There should not be periods of time where the construction is halted, and every effort should be made to compress the time from start to finish.

... Scaffolding that is erected on the Upton Street side should not stay in place for an extended period of time. Scaffolding should be erected, the work should be done quickly, and the scaffolding should be removed promptly following completion of the work.

... The jobsite (both street and alley sides) should be kept in

Next UPNA General Meeting

**Tuesday March 8th at 7:00 PM
346 Shawmut Ave**

Agenda:

- Councillor Bill Linehan (private ways and dangerous sidewalks)
- Councillor Ayanna Pressley
- John Dragat (developer of 588 Tremont)

Councilor Bill Linehan To Speak about our Alleys

Councilor Bill Linehan will speak to the UPNA neighbors at our next general meeting on Tuesday, March 8.

Many of you may know that Councilors Linehan and Felix Arroyo have jointly filed a petition to hold a public hearing on the contentious issue of "public vrs. private" alleyways. This hearing is intended to "examine how the alleys in impacted neighborhoods are designated as public or private alleys and what upkeep responsibilities may be undertaken by private and/or public entities as a result of the designation."

This is an important issue for UPNA neighbors that own property on Upton and Tremont that abut Draper Lane and Ivanhoe Way....where the city's public works department refuses to provide basic maintenance services.

This issue has long rankled many UPNA residents that have no control over the use of these alleys, but are saddled with

workman-like condition. Refuse should not accumulate or be stored outside, and the project should be kept neat and tidy at all times.
... Dumpsters should be placed on the Draper Lane (alley) side of the buildings. If it becomes necessary to load dumpsters on the Upton Street side, they should be delivered in the A.M. and removed the same day. All dumpsters should be covered at times when they are not being filled.
... If special permits are required (i.e. work on a weekend), the UPNA should be notified in advance so that neighbors may be advised.
... Deliveries of materials should be made to the alley entrances to prevent traffic tie-ups on Upton Street.
... The UPNA should be provided with telephone contact numbers and emergency numbers for distribution to the neighborhood.
... The developer (POUA) and the contractor (NEI) should agree to prompt ad hoc meetings if/when problems arise.

To the credit of the development group, virtually all of these concerns had been considered and incorporated into the current Construction Management Plan. This plan will be updated within a few days, and upon its receipt, it will be posted on the UPNA website.

Construction is planned to begin any day, and completion is projected for the fall of this year.

UPNA Board Elects Officers

Establishes Committees

The UPNA board elected officers for the 2011 term at the February 8th meeting. The new officers are:
Jerry Frank - president
Bill McIntosh - vice president
James Alan Fox - vice president/treasurer
Leslie Frank - clerk

In addition, the board created committees and appointed chairpersons as follows:

Friends of Union Park - Vince Mayer & Austin O'Toole
Neighborhood Communications - Kevin Cole & Rebecca Kaiser
Neighborhood Appearance - Chair open
Crime/Safety - James Alan Fox, Leslie & Jerry Frank
Licensing/Zoning/Development - Jerry Frank & Kalun Lee
Activities - Sue Fox, Giovanni Tamarro, Barry Rock

A full listing of officer and committee responsibilities along with contact information will be posted shortly on our website @ www.upna.org

Volunteers are needed and neighbors are encouraged to volunteer for service by contacting us at: info@upna.org

providing expensive maintenance and may be legally liable in the event of injury or property damage to anyone using the alley.

Additionally, Councilor Linehan will discuss solutions to repairing many of the hazardous conditions of neighborhood sidewalks. Of specific concern are the many places where tree roots have "heaved" the large granite blocks that were used to create borders for the tree plantings.

Crime & Safty Update

A representative from the UPNA attends the South End Police/Community Panel meetings held monthly at the area D4 Police Station.

At the Feb. meeting the Boston Police issued a word of advice to neighbors about using extreme caution (both day and night) when walking in the area where Berkeley St. intersects with Albany St. This is the intersection where the Mobil Station and the Pine Street Inn are located.

The Area D4 Police Station covers the South End, Back Bay and the Fenway. Do you know how many officers are on duty during a shift?

Answer: only 21; obviously this is a very large area to cover with this small group of personnel. Please help to keep your neighborhood safe by assisting the police. Be observant and report suspicious behavior to them.

Friends of Union Park

The Friends of Union Park is the Committee of the UPNA that is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of our landmark Park. Last year, the time and effort of many was finally rewarded with the re-installation of the beautifully restored 1913 Union Park fence. Thank you again to all those who played a role in securing this truly significant Park improvement!

The removal and reinstallation of the fence, regrettably but not surprisingly, took a heavy toll on the surrounding lawn. The Friends Committee is currently focussed on restoring the Park's lawn to the same high standard of the our new fence. To that end the Friends have retained Fairview Landscaping to provide, come spring, the services necessary, e.g. seeding, fertilizing, aerating, etc., to replenish the Park's grass supply. Last fall, the Friends also hired Barrett Tree Service to prune and maintain the Park trees. In addition to improving the health and well being of our Park trees, the pruning should also allow some more all important sunlight to find its way down to the lawn.

Funding for these maintenance efforts is drawn from a separate Friends of Union Park fund, funded by you, our neighbors, and other interested and caring persons. If you have any comments or concerns about the maintenance of Union Park, or would like to become involved in the stewardship of the South End's preeminent Victorian residential garden park, please send an e-mail to info@UPNA.org



What's U.P.

Events

New Comers Reception

Wednesday April 20th 7:00 - 9:00 pm 43 Upton Street #1

If you are new to the neighborhood please send us your email and address to info@upna.org. UPNA hosts a party annually to welcome all new neighbors to the neighborhood. Come meet the UPNA board members and learn about local resources.

Hosted by Jerry & Leslie Frank
Where 43 Upton Street #1

Save the Dates

Other great upcoming events

UPNA Wine Tasting April, date TBD - There is no wine tasting this month. Our next wine tasting will be in April.

If you would like to help with UPNA Events please e-mail us at info@upna.org

Free Rape Aggression Defense Training (RAD)

Sponsored by the **UPNA and the Boston Police Department**

When: Four **Wednesday** evenings (3 hrs. each) **beginning March 2, 2011 - March 23rd**

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: 346 Shawmut Avenue (room, compliments of Cornu Management Co.)

The Boston Police Dept. and the UPNA are sponsoring a free **Rape Aggression Defense** training (RAD) class.

This is a 12-hour program (4 consecutive Wed. evenings) beginning March 2nd and participants are expected to attend all 4 classes. There is one slot left. Training will be conducted by officer Richard Litto. Officer Litto is also an active member of U.S Marine Corp. Reserves.

If you are interested in participating in this program please sign up at: info@upna.org

Upton Street artist Beverly Sky at the Artworks Gallery, New Bedford

February 5th - April 3rd

The Surface Design Association of Massachusetts and Rhode Island has selected Beverly Sky's Fabric Collage titled I Remember Kyoto: Springtime, II for inclusion in it's juried show at the Artworks Gallery in New Bedford, MA.

One Passion, Many Voices
Artworks
384 Acushnet Ave
New Bedford, MA 02740

www.artworksforyou.org
www.beverlysky.com

More News available by e-mail ~ Join Our Mailing List!

If you wish to receive the extended monthly newsletter in color we will now require your e-mail address, as we are no longer distributing a printed version door-to-door. You can register your e-mail address online at www.upna.org. Because of the need for timeliness, certain notices, such as crime warnings, are only sent out by e-mail. By using the link above or by visiting our website at www.upna.org you can manage how you want to be contacted and what you want to be contacted about.

Other Business...!

Your announcements here

UNION PARK NEIGHBOR NEEDS SHORT-TERM RENTAL

Union Park neighbor renovating his home needs a 2-4 month rental in the neighborhood, starting approximately March 1st. Minimum 2 bedrooms, furnished, toddler-friendly (street level needed). Please contact David at unionpark@me.com with any possibilities.

Have something to sell, looking for an unusual item or have an event you want to advertise? Send the information to info@upna.org and we will post it in the next newsletter.

Help! Now easier to volunteer by registering online

Support UPNA by giving your time and expertise

Want to help out your neighborhood association but too busy to devote more than a few hours? That's OK. There are many ways you can help out without having to commit more than a few hours. We have now set up a list where you can register your willingness to volunteer. We need help in the following areas:

Event notices distribution - 1 hour
Newsletter layout - 4 hours / month
Contact list maintenance - 1 hour / month
Website maintenance - 1 hour / month
Activities Events setup and cleanup - 1 hour



Mailings - stuffing and labeling - 2 hours

Please use the following link [Volunteer](#) and check off "Interested in helping out".

Box Tops for Education



A free and easy way to help Hurley School

The Hurley School has raised \$150 from Box Tops for Education. Thank you to all who have participated. Keep up the good work. Please bring your tops to the next general meeting July 14th so Mary Bottella Knickle can collect them. Or call for pickup at 617-262-1614 or email mbottella@yahoo.com



The Union Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA) is a non-profit association of all the residents of Union Park, Union Park Street, Upton Street and adjacent cross streets. The purpose of the association is to act as a unified voice representing the interests of the residents with respect to issues and activities affecting our neighborhood. If you live here, you are a member of the association.

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