

# NABB NEWS

THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE BACK BAY  
337 NEWBURY STREET  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02115

## NABB'S 2008-09 ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

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Melissa Bevelacqua and Steve and Carrie Wintermeier enjoy the Taste of the Back Bay (left). The younger set enjoys pizza at the Playground. Grown-ups and kids find plenty to like on NABB's menu of activities.

### Crime Committee

**DON CARLSON & STAGEY DRUBNER, CO-CHAIRS**

The mission of the Crime Committee is to work with the Boston Police Department and the community to help prevent crime in the Back Bay. From our work with the police it is clear that if residents and organizations had better information about ways to avoid becoming victims of crime, we could reduce the crime rate. Accordingly, a key focus of the committee is on providing crime prevention information. One type of crime that is preventable with better information is car break-ins. If drivers hid

the GPS devices, computers, cash and other things that attract break-ins, there would be many

fewer. The committee worked with the police to prepare a set of practical guidelines for avoiding car break-ins and distributed it widely in the community.

The committee also set up the third annual Rape Aggression Defense course last April. The Boston Police Community Service Office sponsored this comprehensive self-defense and safety awareness program. It was offered to women in the Back Bay in order to increase their chances of surviving an attack. The course began with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, and progressed to the basics of hands-on defensive training. Twelve local women completed this course.

The committee worked with District 4 of the Police Department to create a Newbury Street database. 110 businesses signed up with the police department, creating a registry that facilitates communication between the police and these local companies. This database allows the police department to quickly contact these businesses about incidents of shoplifting and robbery, as well as crime prevention.

Another key role of the committee is to serve as the liaison between the community and the police, bringing

- **LICENSING & BUILDING USE**, continued from page 3 location. We consider beer-and-wine licenses on a case-by-case basis, and have not opposed several new licenses when beer or wine is a part of dining.
- Appropriate hours of operation for restaurants and bars end at 12 P.M. (10 P.M. for patios) on Newbury Street and 1 A.M. (11 P.M. for patios) on Boylston Street.
- Late-night bars, nightclubs, pool halls, and tattoo parlors don't belong in a mixed residential-commercial neighborhood, and we oppose them.

If the goals of the LBU Committee are important to you, and you have an interest in business licensing and local zoning issues, come to our monthly meetings and contribute to the discussions and decisions. Contact the committee chair, James Hill, through the NABB office or at [james.hill.nabb@gmail.com](mailto:james.hill.nabb@gmail.com).

the crime concerns of our neighbors to the attention of the police and requesting action. In the last year, we have communicated concerns about robberies, home break-ins, assaults, drug dealing, and vagrancy.

Back Bay residents and businesses are encouraged to attend the monthly Public Safety Forums led by the Boston Police Department. They are held in room 212 of the McKim Building of the Boston Public Library at 6:00 pm on the last Wednesday of every month. This is the place to voice your concerns and ideas about crime in the Back Bay. For more information on our committee, contact [dgcarlson@earthlink.net](mailto:dgcarlson@earthlink.net) or [sdrubner2@earthlink.net](mailto:sdrubner2@earthlink.net).

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**What is City Services?**  
The City Services Committee is comprised of Block Captains who volunteer to serve as neighborhood liaisons for their city block. City Services' mission is to work to ensure that the quality of life in the Back Bay is maintained and enhanced. The team focuses on urban concerns such as trash, alley cleanliness, rodent control, street cleaning, potholes, and sidewalk and city light repair. Block Captains are the core of NABB's City Services Committee. They are the "eyes and ears" of what's happening in their neighborhood. Block Captains like to help people resolve city service issues and educate people to be good neighbors by keeping the alleys and neighborhood blocks attractive and clean.

### City Services

**SANDI GASKIN & GATHY YOUNGMAN, CO-CHAIRS**

**Accommodations:**  
Our annual *Good Neighbor* brochure was printed and mailed to 2,400 Back Bay residents. It was also distributed to various real estate agencies that handle apartment rentals. This handy reference brochure provides information on residential trash regulations and a useful list of important city services' telephone numbers. This year's focus was to reach both owners and renters in the Back Bay.

The goal of our ongoing Alley Building Number program is to ensure that the rear of all

since February 2009 the new co-chairs have worked to build up the YF&N email list, which now contains almost 350 names, most of whom are NABB members or Back Bay residents.

YF&N held successful social networking events at Vox, Sonsie, and The Rattlesnake, averaging 35-50 people at each event. The first "Game Night" event at Kings was smaller but fun; many people found that it was easier to meet people over a board game than at a bar.

### Young Friends & Neighbors

**MICHAEL CALABRESE & CONRAD ARMSTRONG, CO-CHAIRS**

More recently, the committee held a "new restaurant" social event at *Cafe 47*, which let people get to know this new neighborhood establishment; with free appetizers provided for the group by *Cafe 47's* owner, Beth Gibeley-Panagos.

At all our events we try to educate people about NABB. YF&N will continue to host events and gatherings to help young Back Bay people and their friends enjoy the neighborhood, network, and get to know NABB. Contact [info@nabbonline.com](mailto:info@nabbonline.com).

buildings can be easily identified by installing street numbers on the back of each building. This will increase safety for residents and reduce police and fire emergency response time. For a nominal fee, City Services provides a set of street numbers (approved by NABB's Architecture Committee and the Back Bay Architectural Commission) which can be placed on the rear of a building or fence.

The team conducted its annual survey identifying potholes and graffiti in the Back Bay, including the alleys. The pothole survey results were sent to the Department of Public Works and Transportation and were included in the City's repair projects. The graffiti results were sent to Anne Swanson, co-chair of Graffiti NABbers.

The goal of our *Dog Fouling* brochure is to educate all dog owners as to the proper disposal of dog waste. Waste should be bagged and placed in trash barrels located on Commonwealth Mall, the Esplanade, the Public Garden and many street corners throughout the Back Bay.

City Services is currently working with other groups such as Graffiti NABbers and neighboring civic associations. In this joint effort, we feel we can help accomplish our common goals.

To contact the committee, e-mail [sgaskin31@hotmail.com](mailto:sgaskin31@hotmail.com) or [catherine.youngman@verizon.net](mailto:catherine.youngman@verizon.net).



## ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09

### Dear NABB Members:

I write this as I look forward to NABB's first barbecue at the Clarendon Street Playground. Two hours hence on this lovely September day, the sun filtering through the trees, the "welcome back from summer" gathering for families, friends and neighbors will kick off, heralding its potential as an annual fall event. I am confident of its success as it represents an initiative and volunteer ethic which is the backbone of our organization.

During this past year, I have been continually impressed by NABB's many tireless volunteers. The work, initiative, and activities undertaken reflect the diversity of interests, expertise and age among the membership. Above all, there is a commonality of commitment to preserve and enhance a quality of life in the Back Bay and to broaden our membership through these activities. The total contribution toward the betterment of our environment is valuable and immense.

NABB has members who chair or take part in one of the committees that meet monthly—Architecture, Licensing & Building Use, Development & Transportation, Crime or City Services. Others provide testimony at public hearings and write letters, represent NABB as appointees to the Back Bay Architectural Commission, or participate on a task force, Impact Advisory Group or Citizen Advisory Committee for one of the many development proposals.

NABB has many Friends & Neighbors groups, which run the gamut from Wine & Dine, Theater, Mom's, Bridge, Books, and French Conversation to Chocolate, Men's Discussion, Gay & Lesbian Friends, Young Friends, Salon, Wine Tasting and Mah Jongg. These are a great way to meet neighbors with similar interests or explore a new interest. Chip in for Alley Rally, be a Graffiti NABber, steward of the Mall, Friend of the Clarendon Street Playground, Captain for a Block, or assist with membership growth and relations through the Membership Committee, new member's reception and engaging others in our community.

There are numerous topical matters that affect the neighborhood. Members collaborate to effect an outcome that they feel is in the best interest of the neighborhood. They have deliberated and shared their expertise on the Silver Line III proposal, Bus 59, MBTA, Storrow Drive, Boston Bike Network, Esplanade landmarking, mounted police, green initiatives and groundwater. We have worked in partnership with other neighborhoods on matters of mutual concern, such as the Mayoral Questionnaire and Mayoral Forum.

Members have envisioned ways to sustain NABB's resources in leaner times with a variety of small fundraisers such as NABB's White Elephant table at the Street Sale, Derby Day and the NABBQ. We are off to an enthusiastic start planning the 15th annual Taste of Back Bay. This major fundraiser for the organization is infused with the notable NABB volunteer effort.

I now close after enjoying a break of a couple of hours among friends, new, old, young and old. The NABBQ was a grand success—one of the many efforts that exemplifies why the Back Bay is the neighborhood it is. I appreciate the help and support of everyone this last year, including our steadfast Office Administrator, Lois Harvey. Thanks to all, it has been an educational, challenging and rewarding year. I am looking forward to being joined by Linda Zukowski as President for the coming year.

Ann Gleason  
Chair, 2008-2010



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PHOTO: PATT QUINN

NABB's Friends & Neighbors groups are very popular. Membership is open to all, and F&N groups are eager to have new members. Many active groups had a very busy year.

The Back Bay Salon (which meets on the fourth Monday of most months) discussed a variety of topics including *Hope, Beauty, Evil, Art and Civic Life*, and *Are We Our Brothers' Keepers?*

The Bridge Group meets every Tuesday morning at One Charles or in members' homes. Players of all levels are welcome. This is a lively group dedicated to enjoying and growing with the game.

The French Conversation Group gathered to watch a number of French movies and attended a lecture by Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clezio, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature in 2008. (No one will ever forget how he learned about his prize.) They also spent countless hours over food and drinks discussing films, books, politics, and life in general.

New mothers and babies, the heart and soul of the Moms' Groups, support one another in the challenges of urban family life by their commitment to weekly meetings. For the past four years, the core group has included babies and toddlers of various ages and has met regularly at Kingsley Montessori School's Exeter building.

The Mystery Book Group (meets the first Monday of every month) read mysteries from a number of Scandinavian and Italian authors

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### Friends & Neighbors

ANNE DRAZEN & LINDA ZUKOWSKI, CO-CHAIRS

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Members of the Friends and Neighbors Theater Group attend a performance of *Fences*.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NATALE BASSI



PHOTO: SUE PRINDLE

45-47 Commonwealth Avenue façade to be restored.

The NABB Architecture Committee works to preserve the residential portion of historic Back Bay, and to ensure that alterations in the commercial areas are compatible with the original architecture. We are a resource for residents contemplating changes to their buildings. Our committee meets monthly to review significant applications before

## Architecture

SUE PRINDLE & JEROME COOPERKING, CO-CHAIRS

the Back Bay Architectural Commission. We then make recommendations to the

Commission based on our discussions. Below are some of the highlights—and lowlights—of the last year.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Last year we reviewed the proposal for a new building adjacent to the Ames-Webster house at the corner of Dartmouth and Commonwealth. The Commission approved it in October of 2008, and construction will probably start this fall. But three commercial buildings that we worked on last year—4-6 Newbury Street, 93 Massachusetts Avenue, and 26 Exeter Street—have yet to break ground.

We were disappointed that the BBAC signage regulations were not enacted. We are hopeful that they will be implemented this year.

Street furniture continues to be a concern.

Light poles erected in the district to carry cell phone equipment did not conform to the approved design, and the BBAC is discussing modifications with the owner. Approved bike racks have been installed in the district, and we expect the program to expand.

### Residential applications

The largest current project in the residential district is the renovation of 45-47 Commonwealth Avenue, approved in November of 2008. This building had been sorely neglected. Construction proceeds apace, including an underground garage, a walled rear garden, and a welcome reduction of an unfortunate roof addition (see photo, left).

Major residential renovations were approved at 395 and 349 Marlborough, 303 Commonwealth, and 243 Beacon. A new garage was approved at 190 Beacon and a new solarium at 18 Exeter.

Cars and trees continue to contend for limited space. The committee's position is that if a tree is removed for any reason, another should be planted. We wrestled with the replacement of the trees at the Vendome, and with the proposed replacement of a large nonconforming air conditioning unit, which was approved after additional screening was added.

### Commercial applications

Demand for additional basement retail space on Newbury Street continues, despite the rise in vacancies and the fall in the market. Applications for front yard excavations were approved at 177, 218, 234-6, 263, and 299-301 Newbury. Application was also made for shallow two-story rear yard additions at 177 and 234-6 Newbury. The BBAC approved the former and denied the latter. NABB opposes additions more than one story in height, particularly in the residential alleys.

At 745 Boylston, a 1980s storefront renovation will be replaced with a new iteration that extends 3' into the sidewalk across the face of the building. Although the committee would have preferred a shallower footprint, we feel that the new design is a decided improvement. At 276-8 Newbury, a roof addition that was within the zoning envelope was approved. At 535 Boylston, the Commission approved a ground floor renovation, while denying a proposed extension of the building vestibule. In a positive development, 111-115 Newbury is being renovated for residential as well as commercial use.

Outdoor cafes continue to be popular, even

very small ones. *The Trident Café* at 338 Newbury received approval to install six tables on its sidewalk. *Café 47* at 47 Massachusetts Avenue is seeking to install two tables on the public sidewalk. NABB supported this only on the condition that alcohol not be served. *Dillon's* at 955 Boylston was granted approval for expansion of its outdoor seating area, as was *Cafeteria* at 279A Newbury.

Our committee welcomes new members. You need not have a background in architecture or preservation, only an appreciation of the architecture of the Back Bay. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month, in the evening. Please call the NABB office if you are interested in attending.

## ■ FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS, continued from page 1



PHOTO: WILHELM COVINGHAM

Chocolate appetizers, entrees, and desserts!

including Karin Fossum, Hakan Nesser, Donna Leon and Andrea Camilleri. Each member has a chance to choose a book and host the discussion.

The Theater Group attended some fantastic plays and operas. An uproarious, heartfelt performance by Carrie Fisher in *Wishful Drinking* was outstanding, the operas unforgettable, and offerings at the Huntington Theatre were delightful. *Jersey Boys* was such an outstanding success that all 50 attendees were "singing and dancing in the aisles."

The Wine Tasting Group hosted a number of events in galleries, clubs, and private homes. Wines from around the world or related to a theme were featured.

And there are many more, from Condo Management to Chocolate Lovers...

To find out about any F&N group, or start one, contact [anne\\_drazen@harvard.edu](mailto:anne_drazen@harvard.edu) or [lzuke@aol.com](mailto:lzuke@aol.com)

A summary of Mall Committee activities from last fall through early fall of this year:

Sadly, six old elms were lost due to Dutch elm disease. The DED injection program begun many years ago continues. At a cost of about \$35,000 a year, this program has stemmed the loss of the historic trees, but as this year demonstrates, it is not foolproof.

A total of 8 memorial trees were planted this spring. The trees were planted in honor of Alexa

## Commonwealth Avenue Mall

MARGARET POKORNY, CHAIR

Charles, John Devereaux, Robert Mudge, Stella Trafford, Michael Whitmore and Belinda Hogan, and Marian Sturzinger. The Learning

School donated two trees with funds from their Read-a-thon.

We have completed the pruning of all trees along the north and south street edges of the Mall. This work requires a police detail, as the work must be done from the street, making it much more expensive than working inside the Mall.

We received two grants from the Garden Club of the Back Bay. One will be used to continue fertilizing the trees smaller than 10" caliper in two more blocks. We have been doing two blocks a year for the last two years with the Garden Club's support. The Club gave an additional grant to inject the large street-tree elms in the Mass. Ave.-to-Charlesgate block of Commonwealth Avenue. While these trees are not on the Mall, an infection of DED would impact the Mall elms, so it is important that these trees be treated as well.

We continued the work begun last year with funding from the Small Changes grant program of the City of Boston. We removed the yew stumps in the underpass area of the Mall and regraded and reseeded this area. This makes maintenance of this area easier for the Parks Department and discourages people from sleeping under the shrubs.

The missing barnacles on the Morison statue have been replaced and an extra supply stored for future use.

We didn't see this one coming: Someone actually tried to steal a bench this spring! They pried it off its footing at one end and cracked the back leg. The bench has since been repaired and we hope this won't happen again.

The Parks Department repaired the post-and-chain fence in the underpass area. The Clarendon Street fence was badly damaged, and it appears that there are no more spare parts for repairs. The molds for making replacement parts are also missing. The Parks Department is working on this.

The Parks Department fertilized all blocks of the Mall this spring and reseeded from Clarendon to Fairfield. The Mall Committee also directed additional pruning in the D-E and C-D block to thin the canopy so more light might get to the new turf.

The holiday lights were left on the trees for much too long and we hope to have that corrected next year.

We are working with Sarah Hutt on cleaning the Mall statues and remain interested in pursuing lighting or re-lighting the statues.

We have a new volunteer, John Kubicek, who is resetting the ID tags on all the trees that have them. It has been about five years since we did this and the trees have grown out over the length of the nails. So far he has gone through two hammers and a crowbar—we are grateful! We plan to replace missing tags and tag young trees by hanging the tags from a plastic locking cord around a high branch. (We do not want to nail into small trees, but it would be very helpful to have numbers on them.)

Susan Juretschke once again coordinated our volunteer waterers. We thank everyone who hauled hoses around to the newly planted trees this summer. They all look great.

Kate Hall was hired by the Mall Committee this summer to pick up litter on the Mall five days a week through the fall. While the Parks Department is diligent in emptying the trash barrels, they do not pick up loose trash on the lawn areas. Kate is doing a great job and we hope to be able to continue this program next year with continued support from neighbors. Patti Quinn, armed with sandpaper, has kept the benches graffiti free.

We also have ten bench locations available in the Mass. Ave. to Charlesgate block. To purchase a bench or share other Malls concerns contact [mpok384@verizon.net](mailto:mpok384@verizon.net).



PHOTO: PATTI QUINN

Tree tags help keep tabs on the more than 650 trees on the Mall.

**N**ABB volunteers spend enormous amounts of time and energy reviewing proposed large-scale development projects in and near our neighborhood, as well as MBTA and MTA transportation proposals. NABB representatives on various mayoral-appointed citizen advisory panels consider potential positive and negative impacts of these projects. The members of the panels as well as other committee members endeavor to persuade planners to shape projects to most successfully complement our neighborhood and adjoining neighborhoods.

## Development & Transportation

JACKIE YESSIAN, CHAIR

Issues we address include: reduction of sunlight, increased traffic, altered surface wind speeds and groundwater

levels, air and noise pollution, impacts to pedestrians and the public transportation system, and overall design compatibility.

September 2008 to September 2009 has been a very busy year. Key projects included:

- **Berklee Institutional Master Plan**, with Susan Ashbrook, co-chair and Ellen Shortell, member of the Civic Advisory Committee.
- **Stuart Street Corridor Study** with Janet Hurwitz, member of the small task force reviewing the work of the BRA and a planning consulting firm.
- **Christian Science Center Plan**, with Sybil

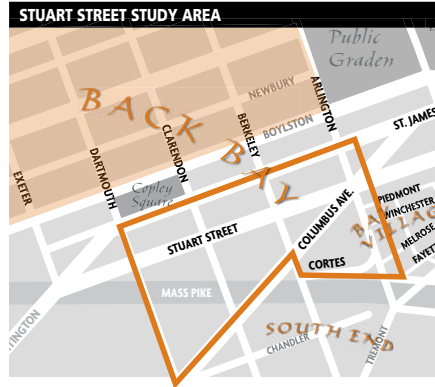
CooperKing, co-chair of the Civic Advisory Committee.

- **Silver Line Phase III:** Peter Sherin continues to work with adjacent neighborhoods to pursue a replacement rail service.
- **Route 39:** Members have participated with other neighborhoods as the MBTA looks for ways to improve this bus service by reducing travel time and improving stops.
- **Boston Bike Network:** The NABB Board supports implementation of a bicycle network within the district. We are working with the City to achieve a network of bicycle lanes without installing a

lane on Commonwealth Avenue in isolation of other anticipated links, such as lanes on Boylston, Beacon, and the cross streets. NABB is also working to insure that the highly pedestrian character of the district be safe for all modes of transportation.

- Committee members supported the efforts of the appointed members, attending meetings, consulting on issues, and making recommendations to the Executive Committee for presentation to the NABB Board. The NABB Board endorsed the following Principles for the Stuart Street Area, which is outside of the Historic District although part of the Back Bay:
1. Allow for appropriate urban growth, both residential and commercial.
  2. Protect and enhance the abutting neighborhoods.
  3. Create a vibrant day/night urban life that connects the adjoining neighborhoods.
  4. Enhance residential life.
  5. Encourage a balance of residential, office, retail, restaurant, recreational, and other uses.
  6. Protect and improve environmental quality, in the area and in surrounding neighborhoods.
  7. Protect historic structures.
  8. Enhance the public realm.
  9. Build on Boston's strengths as a walk-to-work city and a walkable city.

We encourage all NABB members to GET INVOLVED! We can influence potential changes to our built environment if we speak up clearly and objectively and loudly, in numbers. We urge you to participate. Contact the NABB office at [info@nabbonline.com](mailto:info@nabbonline.com).



**N**ABB's Licensing and Building Use (LBU) Committee meets monthly in a public forum to consider the impact on residents of proposals by restaurants, hotels, and others who want to do business in our neighborhood. We have about a dozen

## Licensing & Building Use

JAMES HILL, CHAIR

active committee members with a long and varied knowledge of the interface between commercial and residential interests in the Back Bay.

After hearing proposals put forward by their advocates, we seek to reach agreement on key issues like operating hours, alcohol service, live entertainment, trash handling, noise, traffic, parking, public safety, and public need that are appropriate to the location. By giving close attention to the concerns of nearby residents, historic precedents and the business licensing and commercial zoning details, we hope to promote operating conditions and building use that enable successful businesses to be good neighbors. Sometimes we choose to oppose an idea because of its overall negative impact or inappropriate location.

In the year ending June 2009, the committee met 10 times and formally considered 26 proposals. Agreements were reached with 14 proponents; we opposed or did not reach agreements with 5; we deferred decisions on 3, and we took no position on 4 that we considered outside our scope of review.

Overall, we achieved our desired outcome in 89% of the cases. (17 of 19 positions taken). We were not successful in obtaining indoor trash compaction at Cafeteria Boston, and the Zoning Board of Appeal granted them more patio seats than the 75 we advocated. We did succeed, however, in persuading the operator to resolve a serious noise problem by replacing an old refrigeration compressor.

One notable success was to prevent a "body art and piercing studio" from opening on Newbury Street. The ZBA rejected the application in a well-attended public hearing, agreeing with our contention that this was not an appropriate business to operate in the historic district of the Back Bay.

After reviewing its decisions with NABB's Executive Committee, the LBU Committee first seeks to reach agreements with the proponents. That outcome is communicated to three key government agencies that make the decisions; the Licensing

Board for the City of Boston, the Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing (MOCAL), and the Zoning Board of Appeal.

In addition to the letters we send, the committee chair, assisted by committee members, appeared 26 times in City Hall to speak on NABB's behalf. In this forum, we regularly seek to include license conditions and zoning provisos that address residents' concerns, ideally by prior agreement with the applicant. These agreements with NABB are highly regarded as part of the community input behind City agency decisions.

When we haven't reached an agreement, we either oppose the applications or advocate conditions that we believe are appropriate in the residents' interests.

We also work closely with our city councilors,

state representatives, and the mayor's office to keep them informed of our concerns and positions and to work with them in the interest of our neighborhood and of Boston at large. Even though the City agencies don't always agree with us they are very attentive to residents' views and seek to ensure that our concerns are heard and addressed.

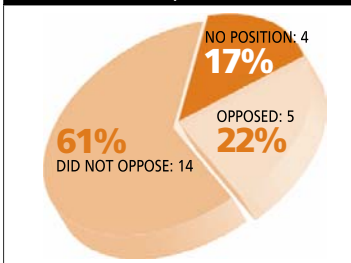
For several decades NABB and the LBU Committee have consistently strived to protect residents' rights to reasonable and quiet enjoyment, safety, and cleanliness. These three qualities of life are why many of us have chosen to live in the Back Bay.

Some of the most important positions we consistently take are:

- We work constructively with businesses that provide the services that neighbors need and want, and who agree to operate in a manner respectful of a residential neighborhood.
- There is no community need for more all-alcohol licenses in the Back Bay, and restaurants should always serve alcohol with food. We ask that any new on-street restaurant that wants an all-alcohol license obtain one from an existing on-street Back Bay

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### PROPOSALS REVIEWED, JULY '08 TO JUNE '09



**T**he Clarendon Street Playground celebrated its 30th birthday in September 2008. This milestone was marked by the CSP Friends throwing a Back-to-School Pizza Party complete with a birthday cake to welcome back the families of the neighborhood.

New yew bushes for the Commonwealth Avenue side of the playground were purchased in the fall. The CSP Friends remain indebted to the Garden Club of the Back Bay, whose members not only researched and planted

## Friends of Clarendon Street Playground

SUSAN BAKER, KATIE DERING, & HILARY WATTS, CO-CHAIRS

the new bushes, but also carried out a major clean-up and badly needed pruning of the bushes and trees in the playground. Garden Club volunteers included Catherine Bordon, Nancy Devereaux, Christine Anderson, Elisabeth Lay, Shirley Smith, and Susan Ashbrook.

The Friends once again hosted a Halloween party, complete with a magic show, hayride, and treats for all. The winter brought new leadership to the Friends of CSP. Many thanks to previous Co-Chairs Kelli O'Brien and Kathy McCormack, who have agreed to follow through with the development of a Master Plan for future playground improvements. The warmer weather of April brought the Spring Fun party, complete with the excitement of the annual Egg Hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The playground was pleased to host Mayor Menino at a Mayor's Coffee Hour at the end of April. In May, the annual Family Fun Day was held. The children of the neighborhood were treated to face painters, a bouncy house, a balloon artist and a juggling show. A great time was had by all, and new playground toys were donated by local families.

New volunteers continue to join the Friends group to help with events and participate in the weekly clean-ups. To get involved, contact the playground email: [playground@nabbonline.com](mailto:playground@nabbonline.com), or the Co-Chairs: Sue, [baker.sue@comcast.net](mailto:baker.sue@comcast.net), Katie, [kathleen.m.dering@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.m.dering@gmail.com), or Hilary, [burke\\_hilary23@hotmail.com](mailto:burke_hilary23@hotmail.com).



Left to right, Christine Anderson, Catherine Bordon, Elisabeth Lay, and Tony Bordon help beautify the Playground.