



Newton Lower Falls
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

LOWDOWN FALL 2022

LETTER FROM THE LFIA PRESIDENT

by Erin Kandamar

It's hard to believe Fall is here. I am sure we are all embracing the crisp morning air and admiring the orange and red hues along Hamilton Park. I always find Fall the perfect time for a re-set as there's so much newness to embrace - the start of school, the change in weather, the kick-off of fall sports (go Pats) and planning for many holidays over the next few months. The LFIA has been busy planning a great line-up of events. Recently we held our second annual "modified" progressive dinner on Oct 1st. With over 80 participants and 18 hosts spanning three rounds of fun, our neighbors toasted a glass or two to making lasting connections. It was wonderful to see many familiar faces and meet so many new neighbors. We hope to continue this tradition in the years to come. A big thanks to **Matt Day** and **Jack Green** for planning another successful event.

On **Saturday, October 29th** Lower Falls residents Cyrisse Jaffe and Tori Zissman will lead a Lower Falls neighborhood history walking tour from 3:00PM – 4:30PM. Keep reading the LowDown for a sneak preview of the tour. Also on October 29th, the LFIA will sponsor a Halloween movie fest on Hamilton field. Starting at 6:30PM will be **Curious George: A Halloween Boo Fest** (rated G) for the little ones, and later starting at 7:45PM **Final Destination** (rated R). Bring your chairs and blankets and get spooked. Light snacks will be provided.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our annual LFIA Fall Community meeting on **Sunday, November 6th at 4:00PM** (agenda on next page). We will meet in person at the Hamilton Community Center blue room. We are looking forward to seeing many faces and providing you with an update on all the work the LFIA has done this year. At our spring meeting last April, we heard from Lower Falls neighbor and Newton South high school student Francisco Shelton who presented on leading the project to build out a new perennial garden in honor of former neighbors Wayne Clark and Marlene Archer. With the guidance of Beautification Committee chair Suzanne Pond and Ted Chapman and other gracious volunteers, Francisco got the job done and the perennial garden is a beautiful addition to the neighborhood. (More on this effort and other beautification activities later in the LowDown.)



At the Fall community meeting we will also be voting in a new slate of LFIA Board members, so please come and vote. I will be rolling off as President of the LFIA but you will be in great hands with the new leadership team. Please consider joining the LFIA (it's \$30 a year for a family membership, \$20 a year for an individual and \$15 a year for seniors). Membership funds help support our community in so many ways from Progressive Dinners, Halloween/Diwali festivals, beautification, the skating rinks, and much more. Please learn more about how your membership can help to give back to our neighborhood at:

<https://newtonlowerfalls.org/Join-the-LFIA>

Warmly,

Erin Kandamar
erin@kandamar.com

**LFIA COMMUNITY MEETING
 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021 @ 4PM
 Hamilton Community Center**

Agenda

- Welcome
- Approval of Minutes (Spring 2022)
- Riverside Update
- Treasurer's Report
- Beautification Update
- Communications Update
- Membership Update
- Vote for new board

NEIGHBORHOOD SHOUTOUTS!

By Summer Zeh

→ **Priyanka Bhivpathaki** and **Sagar Joshi** moved to Hallron Road in August from Buffalo, New York. Priyanka is a

Risk and Governance Manager in the Financial Services sector and Sagar is a Product Manager in e-commerce space. They have two daughters, Sanvi and Siana who are attending Angier. Sanvi is a third grader, loves reading and crafts; Siana is a kindergartener and loves dancing. Both love practicing Taekwondo and playing. They are excited to explore the trails and hikes, family activities and restaurants in the area, and meet all the great residents of Lower Falls.

→ **David Miller** and **Lydia Helliwell** moved to Pine Grove in June and have been feeling so welcomed by the neighborhood. We gave birth to our first son- Harrison Helliwell Miller (aka Harry)- on Sept 1, 2022 at 3:40am at 7lbs 10oz.



→ This one deserves special recognition. **Betty Steele** of Clearwater Road will be celebrating her 102nd birthday next month! She has been living in Lower Falls for well over 60 years. Her

neighbors report that she has been a wonderful neighbor and valued friend. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BETTY! Our neighborhood has been made better by you.

NEWTON ZONING REDESIGN & LOWER FALLS

By Randy Block and Cyrisse Jaffee

As some of you know, the city of Newton is in the midst of a multi-year effort to update and rewrite Newton's Zoning Ordinance. Zoning laws regulate how land in Newton can be developed and what kinds of new buildings are allowed.

The City Council decided to focus first on village centers, with regulations for three categories: small, medium, and large. Community feedback about the proposed changes has been offered on an ongoing basis and included the establishment of a Zoning Redesign Engagement Network by the Planning Department. Another important tool for community input was a library exhibit and an online survey, available from September 1 through October 16, 2022.

Several members of the Zoning Redesign Engagement Network felt that the survey was poorly designed and thus would not accurately reflect neighborhood concerns. (It was also only available to the public for 6 weeks.) They also objected to the lack of 3D models, maps, and metrics as to how village size would be determined. This made it hard to assess what the true impact of the zoning changes would be. Other controversial aspects of the new zoning proposal include:

- taller buildings "by-right" (increase to 2.5, 3.5, and 4.5 stories in small, medium, and large village centers compared to 2 stories currently allowed)
- taller buildings by special permit (increase to 5 and 6 stories for medium

and large village centers compared to 4 stories currently allowed)

- greater density in housing
- reducing the minimum lot size needed for development
- reducing minimum parking requirements for residential and business development

The Planning Department considers Lower Falls to have a small village center on Washington Street. So although NLF would not be significantly affected by the proposed changes, they would have a major impact on other villages throughout Newton. To learn more about zoning redesign, visit <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/plans-policies-strategies/zoning-redesign> and sign up for updates from the city. As always, you can send your feedback to the City Council at citycouncil@newtonma.gov and to our representatives Lenny Gentile, Josh Krintzman, and Chris Markiewicz.

JOIN US FOR HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

By Tori Zissman

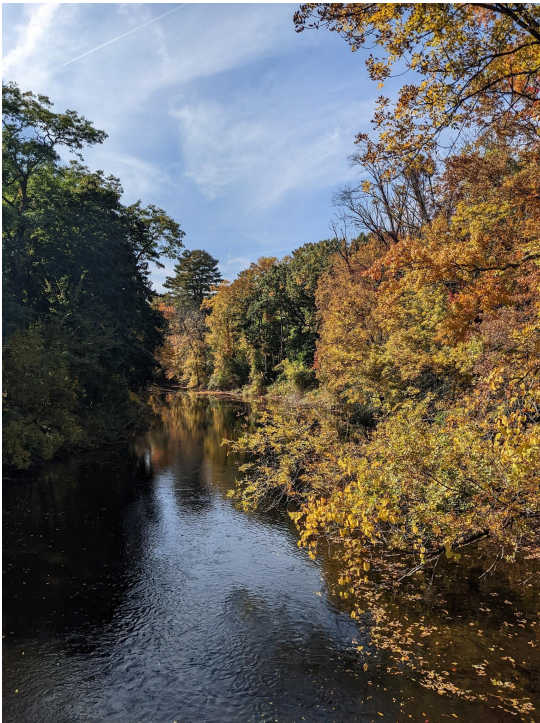
Interested in learning more about the history of Lower Falls? The LFIA is sponsoring a Historical Walking Tour on **Saturday, October 29, 2022, 3pm-4:30pm** (rain date October 30). Led by neighbors Tori Zissman and Cyrisse Jaffee, we will explore the origins of the village, how one industry determined its future, and the stories of some of the people who made this place their home.

Think you already know quite a lot about Lower Falls history? There is always more to learn! While doing research for the tour, Tori came upon reference in an old Wellesley Townsman to a "local notable" whose name was unfamiliar: Elizabeth Eaton Boit. Further research revealed that Elizabeth Eaton Boit was indeed born in Newton Lower Falls in 1849. The second of six daughters, Elizabeth was

educated in the Lower Falls public school. When she was old enough, she went to work in the nearby mills. A quick study, Boit became forewoman of the sewing department at the Dudley Hosiery Knitting Mill while still in her 20s, an unusual position for a woman at that time.

In 1888 at the age of 39, Elizabeth did something even more remarkable. She partnered with Charles Winship to open the Harvard Knitting Mills. They based the business in Wakefield where it eventually occupied 8 1/2 acres, employed about 850 employees, and produced 24,000 garments per day. At the time, Elizabeth Eaton Boit was the only woman actively engaged as an owner in such a successful textile business.

Where exactly in Lower Falls did Elizabeth Eaton Boit live and work? Join us to find out more. Sign up by emailing Tori at: tzissman@gmail.com. The tour will be capped at 25 participants, so act quickly to grab one of the few remaining spots.



A LOWER FALLS HOLIDAY TRADITION CONTINUES

By Joyce Krensky

Katie Falzone and I are gearing up for our annual Christmas drive for clothing for homeless children. We collect only new items of any size and styles. All the goods go to children in Greater Boston's shelters, ages newborns to teens. All sizes and types of clothing are needed--from warm outdoor items to school clothes and pajamas--from rain and snow boots to slippers.

Previously, we matched a child whose first name and size was given to a donor, but the need is so overwhelmingly great for every kind of donation that now we just give the donations to the many shelters for what they need-- as they support those in their care who are living with so little.

Some people go to a store and buy whatever they can find on sale, so we might get 10 boots in many sizes to match the sale they've found. It's fun for some of us to decide how much we can spend and then look for as many great deals as we can. If it's only one sweater, or one jacket, please know that a single purchase is just wonderful too. From my estimates, those contributing to this drive for the last fifteen years (I started it at the high school I taught in and took it to the neighborhood and my synagogue when I left teaching) have donated over \$15,000 in new goods. And don't worry about anything going unused--we never have a problem with too many of any items, as we can't ever fill the needs, which are so great.

And yes, you can start a drive at your group--be it a church, mosque, synagogue or place where you work or play! Just collect the items and we'll have a volunteer from the shelter pick them up from a couple of porches in Lower Falls.

Details of where to drop off your packages will be forthcoming in an email after Halloween.

As you are aware, I'm sure, the need is greater than ever. Hope you'll consider joining us. Feel free to contact me (jkrensky@gmail.com) or Katie (kathleenfalzone@gmail.com) if you have any thoughts or questions.

Also, this just in from the shelter organizer: anyone who wishes to buy something for the mothers--please know your donations would be so appreciated. They suggest a fleece top or anything new for any size woman.

Happy, safe autumn everyone!

FLOWER GARDEN AND OTHER PLANTING SUCCESSES

By Ted Chapman

After 11 years of trying vegetables in our Hamilton Park community garden, neighbors led by Eagle Scout candidate Francisco Shelton converted that space into a perennial flower garden this Spring. The path system was renovated, compost bins removed, the fence was replaced, and a wide variety of sun-loving perennials were planted. The drought was challenging but the irrigation system got most of the plants through. The Fall bloomers are just opening making it a pleasant place to visit while taking in the beauty of the park's fall colors, or exchanging books in the Little Lending Library adjacent to the garden.

The project was made financially possible by \$1700 in donations to the LFIA Beautification Committee in a fundraiser dedicated to the garden's long standing supporters Marlene Archer and Wayne Clarke. The Beautification Committee will be scheduling a Fall cleanup of the orchard and other plantings in the neighborhood soon. This event will include the planting 1650 rodent-resistant daffodils and iris bulbs in the garden. Please join the kid-friendly event. And wait until next spring!

On another note, planting street trees is one of the best ways to counter climate change and beautify our neighborhood. Partnering with the Newton Tree Conservancy we have planted 49 trees in the last 2 years with 8 more coming this Fall. The deadline for getting your application in for the Spring Lower Falls Community Planting is **November 15th, 2022**. If you're interested, contact Ted Chapman.





ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

By Erin Kandamar

- 1 3-pound butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cut into 1-inch cubes (5 to 6 cups)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 teaspoons kosher salt
- pinch of freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 large yellow onion, diced (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 3 stalks of celery, chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage (about 6 large leaves)
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan
- Sage and Parmesan Croutons

Preheat the oven to 400° F. In a large bowl, toss the squash with 2 tablespoons of the olive oil, 2 teaspoons of the salt, and the pepper. Place the squash on a rimmed baking sheet and roast in the oven for 15 minutes. Turn the cubes over and continue roasting for 15

minutes or until they are caramelized; set aside.

In a Dutch oven or a large stockpot, heat the butter and the remaining oil over medium heat. Add the onion, celery, and sage and sauté, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are translucent and tender, 10 minutes. Add the squash, broth, and the remaining salt and bring to a boil. Lower heat and simmer for 30 minutes or until the liquid is flavorful. Remove from heat.

Using a blender or a food processor, blend the soup in batches until smooth. Return to the pot and keep warm. Top with Sage and Parmesan Croutons and the grated Parmesan.

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE PIE

By Joann Calcagno

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup of flour
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1/2 cup of brown sugar
- 1 cup of butter melted (2 bars of butter)
- 9 oz (1 and 1/2 cups) chocolate chips
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1 9" unbaked deep pie shell

Preheat the oven to 325. Beat eggs until foamy. Add flour and sugar and brown sugar. Blend in melted butter. Add nuts, then chocolate chips and pulse once or twice. Pour into the pie shell. Bake until rich, deep golden brown. (I cook it for about 45 minutes but make sure it is golden brown.) Serve warm. This freezes well.

Happy (Lower) Fall(s), y'all!

