



Newton Lower Falls Newsletter

Fall 2018

LFIA Community Meeting

Sunday, November 4th 2-4p.m.
Hamilton Community Center

Agenda

- Welcome
- Approval of Minutes (Spring 2018)
- Treasurer's Report
- Ice Rink
- Communication Updates
 - ListServ Transition
 - Wild Apricot Website Transition
- Beautification Committee Update
- Membership Report
- Civics Update
- Announcements
- Riverside Update

After the close of the meeting an update on the Two Bridges and Riverside Greenway will be presented.

Sunday afternoon we will celebrate the fall holidays of Diwali and Halloween with games and activities for the kids, including one more opportunity to wear your Halloween costume.

In addition to the party, we have scheduled our Fall Community meeting for Sunday afternoon. Please see the agenda included in this newsletter. The most significant agenda item is the new proposal for the Riverside Development. As most of you know, Mark Development unveiled its new plan for Riverside, with 663 units of housing, a 1000 seat amphitheater and two sky scrapers. The LFIA Riverside committee, chaired by Randy Block, will present on Mark Development's new plan for Riverside at the Community meeting. I encourage all Lower Falls residents to engage in the Riverside discussion as the proposed development will have a significant impact on our neighborhood.

If you have an idea for an event, a question about the neighborhood, or would like to get more involved, please contact me at snyderkathleen@gmail.com or 617-230-4576.

Letter from the President

By Kathleen Snyder

Dear Neighbors:

Happy Fall! I hope this edition of the Lowdown finds you enjoying a quintessential New England season. There is a lot going on in Lower Falls and I hope neighbors will join the LFIA community as we bring you updated information on important issues facing the neighborhood.

The weekend of November 3rd and 4th is a busy weekend here in 02462. We have our 27th annual Progressive Dinner on Saturday night and a full day of LFIA activities on Sunday.

Two Bridges and Riverside Greenway Update

Immediately following the LFIA meeting on Sunday, November 4th will be a presentation by the Riverside Greenway Working Group. They will present the findings of the study of the Two Bridges Trail and discuss the plans to create a Greenway connecting Lyon's Park and Wellesley Hills using a corridor that avoids the existing railroad right of way. The group welcomes comments and feedback from the Lower Falls Community.

New Neighbors

By *Emily Eustace*

We have several new neighbors to introduce and welcome to the Lower Falls Community this Fall.

Tricia Shoemaker moved into 477 Grove Street in mid-July. She moved from Waltham and has a dog named Crosby.

Marcos and **Joanna Burleson** moved to 48 Swallow Drive from West Newton. Joanna is a consultant with Deloitte and Marcos is a data scientist at Adobe. Their daughters Gaby, 8 years old and Sofia, 7 years old, both just started at Angier Elementary. Both girls like playing piano with their mom. David, 4 years old, attends Rockwell preschool and spends most of his free time chasing his big sisters.

Steve and **Sarah Feldman** moved last summer to 5 Hallron Rd with their daughter Lucy, 6 years old and their son Teddy, 3 years old. They just welcomed a brand-new baby boy in mid-September, Henry, and are loving the new neighborhood.

Mike and **Jessica Karbassi** moved to 14 Pierrepont Rd from Cambridge. Mike works for an insurance technology company in the Seaport District. Jess originally hails from Ireland and has been in the states for 16 years. She is busy raising her 3-and-a-half-year-old twins Jaxon and Vivian who attend Echo Falls Preschool part-time. Jess's brother Edward also lives with the family and works as a logistics manager for a startup company in downtown Boston. The family enjoys hiking, Boston museums and playing with their pet gecko!

New to the neighborhood? Want to be included in the next Lowdown? Please contact me at emily.eustace85@gmail.com

Cold Nights, Great Stars

By *Andrew D. Hodgdon*

Where Pine Grove touches on Cornell
You'd never think there's much to tell.
For me it's been a halfway mark
For walking dogs around the park.

Until one snowy winter walk
In heavy boots, my laces caught
fell.
Snow angel-ed in the fluff
Briefly stunned and looking up.

My black dog quickly sat, then lay
(He loves snow and company.)
While I looked up, the stars to see
Orion, Bears and Pleiades.

A buzz of stars was visible
The span of view was wide and full
I marveled at the jet black sky
Where pin holes swathed the Milky Way.

I gazed some time above,
about
But thoughts of safety soon won out
I thought;
a text, a shout!
would surely get the neighbors out.

Their nearby lights seemed warm and safe
But
I'd get teased. What would I say?
"Look up, see there, the Milky Way?"
OR, "can you pull my laces off?"

Then, mercifully my boots uncaught
And dog and I went striding off.

But there's a lesson here to tell
About the place old Hodgdon fell

Its not some rural mountain dome
Its just a block or two from home.

"Hey you; Stop there; At night I mean
Look up,
take in the heavenly scene!"
You'll never unsee the starry swell
Over Pine Grove
where it meets Cornell.

BOO! LOWER FALLS HALLOWEEN PARTY & DIWALI CELEBRATION

Date: Sunday, November 4th

Time: 3:30 - 5:00pm

Place: Community Center Rec Room

We will have Halloween and Diwali themed snacks, crafts, and games. Costumes encouraged.

Please RSVP the number of children to Dan Tortorice tortoric@gmail.com so we can buy enough snacks. The party will take place rain or shine. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with activities and clean up. If interested please contact Kartini Shastry at kartini.shastry@gmail.com.

What is Diwali? Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights celebrated every year in autumn. The holiday celebrates different historical events and stories, but all symbolize the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, hope over despair.

NEW RIVERSIDE PROPOSAL LOOMS

By Cyrisse Jaffee

In response to a new proposal by Mark Development (in conjunction with BH Normandy), several Lower Falls neighbors came together this summer to create the Lower Falls Riverside Committee, a sub-committee of the Lower Falls Improvement Association. They are continuing the work of many dedicated community members who began meeting in 2006, when the first Riverside development proposal was presented and eventually approved in 2013 by the Newton City Council.

The goals of the LFIA Riverside Committee are to:

- **Educate** Lower Falls and the greater Newton community about Riverside plans
- **Investigate** the impact—social, political, economic, legal, transportation, environmental, educational—of development at Riverside
- **Advocate** for the interests and needs of the Lower Falls community

- **Coordinate** with other neighborhood groups

On Thursday, September 27, Mark Development presented their new plan at Newton North High School. About 200 people attended and most expressed their dismay about the size and density of the proposal: 1.425M square feet of residential and commercial mixed-use, which is 2 ½ times bigger than the previously-approved plan. It includes:

- Two high-rise office buildings of 210 feet each. One would be a 14-story, 420,000 square foot office tower. The other would be an 18-story, 200,000 square foot building that would include a 200-room hotel and condos. The current Hotel Indigo, which would be replaced, is about 80 feet high.
- 663 housing units, including the required percentage of affordable housing. In contrast, Lower Falls contains a total of 450 housing units.



(photo credit: Riverside development drawing by Mark Development)

The developer is hoping to get approval by the state and federal governments for direct access from 128 into the development—which would only handle a portion of the traffic—although the controversial roundabouts (from the 2013 plan) at Asheville and Grove Streets would still be built. The few people who expressed support of the plan at the meeting were not from Newton Lower Falls or Auburndale.

The plan will insert essentially a whole new urban village between Lower Falls and Auburndale. Many in those two communities recognize that it will also increase existing traffic congestion on the

Grove Street corridor and all intersections and side streets throughout the surrounding neighborhoods. It will also put considerable strain on the school system, the environment, and the negative impacts of such a massive development will be felt throughout the city.

The project is still in the planning stages; the developer will file for a special permit later this year or in early 2019. They have already mounted a PR campaign that includes young people going door-to-door with a brochure claiming the benefits of the project.

The LFIA Riverside Committee has been busy accumulating and researching information about the plan, connecting with other concerned neighborhood groups, raising funds, and organizing several neighborhood information sessions (dates TBA). It has created a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NewtonLowerFalls or search @NewtonLowerFalls) and an Instagram account (www.instagram.com/riversidecommittee_lfia/).

To volunteer, donate, and find out more, contact the committee at LFIARiverside@gmail.com.



(Photo credit: Erin Kandamar)

*The Lowdown is the Newsletter of the Lower Falls Improvement Association (LFIA). Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462 • Editor: Erin Kandamar
Email comments to erin@kandamar.com • LFIA website: www.newtonlf.org*



(photo credit: Erin Kandamar)