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# The FEDERALIST

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The Federal Street Neighborhood Association is a registered, non-profit group which serves the residents of the Federal Street Neighborhood

Vol. 12

April 2003

## Neighborhood roundup

### Improvements & Proposals

Thanks to everyone who has responded to the many proposals to improve traffic and discourage speeders and cut-throughs. Of the numerous proposals, there are three left on the table for discussion. Please note that, to date, there has been minimal opposition to these proposals, so if you have reasons why these proposed improvements will NOT work, let us know as soon as possible. The FSNA Improvements Committee recently met with Regina Flynn, Captain Callahan, Bruce Thibodeau and his crew on Monday, April 14, and the

City is ready to come to our aid, so we need to make sure that we are ready for them.

**Proposal 1** - Close off the Lynn Street/River Street/Bridge Street "ramp," connect River to Lynn and creating a green-space/park/parking area to buffer against Bridge Street.

**Proposal 2** - Reverse the direction of Beckford Street

**Proposal 3** - Allow traffic on North Street (travelling north) to make the left turn onto Essex Street at the Jerry's Army/Navy traffic light.

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## FSNA Annual Meeting Notes

Approximately 40 people (and kids) attended our Annual Meeting at the First Church last month. It was rainy and cold, but we all had a great time. The new slate of officers and board members for FSNA's new fiscal year (April 1, 2003, to March 31, 2004,) was presented and approved.

Special Awards were given out to the Salem Police Department for their role in helping our neighborhood and continuing to help us develop our Crimewatch program. Jim Paige accepted for the department. Ken Smith of The Plant Branch also received an award for being neighborhood newsletter and events hub and for helping us to keep our streetscape beautiful. Other awards went to Eddie Lendall, our mailman, for his continued

terrific service and commitment to our neighborhood, and to Grace Episcopal Church for their community spirit in allowing FSNA to hold our meetings in their space.

A motion was approved to discontinue our monthly meeting schedule and to coordinate special meetings only to discuss any hot issues that require our entire neighborhood's involvement.

Rita Markunas and Pam McKee provided a special "thank you" to Meg Twohey and Betsy Burns, outgoing co-chairs, for their efforts over the past several years on behalf of the Federal Street Neighborhood Association. As a result of their hard work, FSNA is one of Salem's more active neighborhood groups.

Thank you, Meg and Betsy!

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Monday, April 28, 5:30 to 7 p.m.** – A Construction Open House will be held at the Nathaniel Bowditch House, 9 North Street. Historic Salem is restoring the exterior of the house and you are invited to come see the work in progress and meet the restoration team.

**Sunday, May 4** – The Peabody Essex Museum will be giving our neighborhood tours of the Assembly House, Pierce Nichols House and the Ropes Mansion. There are still 10 SPACES LEFT, first-come, first-served, so let us know ASAP. RSVP/Sign-up by calling Stan Schwartz at (781) 895-2056. The program would be as follows: From 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., open house at Ropes Mansion and Peirce Nichols houses; from 3 to 3:15 p.m., open house at Cotting Smith Assembly House; 3:15 to 4 p.m., introduction to the new PEM (slide show presentation) at Cotting Smith. Those who have RSVP'd, please meet in the Ropes Mansion Garden at 2 p.m. sharp so that we can begin the tour on time.

**Tuesday, May 6** – Historic Salem, Inc., will hold its Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Old Town Hall. Speaker will be Tony Souza, of WHALE in New Bedford, a dynamic speaker on the story of New Bedford's renaissance and the economic value of preservation in towns like New Bedford and Salem.

**May 12 to 17** – Salem Clean Sweeps Week!  
NOTE: Ward 2 street sweeper will be around from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, so please keep your cars off the street during these hours.

**Saturday, May 17** – Salem Clean Beaches – Join us at Forest River, Collins Cove or Salem Willows beaches at 8:30 a.m., and a Pizza Party will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Salem Common for all those who help to pitch-in and make our beaches cleaner.

## Roundup, continued from page 1

Currently, traffic wishing to come from Riley Plaza to Highland Avenue is using Federal Street as the means to get to that destination. Special thanks to Will Wrightson and Eric Bassett for their recommendations here. Even Captain Callahan applauded the idea!

With respect to physical impediments/parking problems we have a new proposal (Captain Callahan's suggestion) to allow Resident Parking on both sides of Federal Street from North Street to Federal Court. Narrowing Federal Street at the top will alert drivers that they need to proceed with caution at reduced speeds. We will continue to work on designing crosswalks that will also provide vehicles with additional caution awareness. After a very difficult winter, Captain Callahan will replace our "No Trucks Barrel" at the crosswalk in front of Murphy's Funeral Home. We have found it to be very successful and good a temporary aid until we can finalize thoughts on the size of an island, or how a raised crosswalk built with bricks and cobblestone will work. The City and FSNA are continuing to look at this major intersection from all angles, so if anyone has ideas, please let us know.

The sidewalk area in front of 92 Federal St. will be our first project in collaboration with the City. Work is scheduled to begin at the end of May, and we plan on replacing the bricks, river rocks and hopefully a tree (if possible – many times the root formation from the previous tree is so extensive that a new tree will not survive).

Our second project target is the Lynn Street/River Street area, which, if approved, will be a major undertaking but one that we feel will have positive results for everyone in our neighborhood. We'll keep you posted.

## Federal Court News

The "big ole stump" that used to stick up out of the street (literally) has fallen down. Luckily nobody was injured and there was no property damage. "Ole Woodensides" collapsed at approximately 3 o'clock in the morning and neighbors woke up to see numerous work crews and fire officials surveying the area. According to eye witnesses, the stump was virtually hollow due to rot from disease, insects, and animal infestation. Our Neighborhood Improvements Committee has met with the City officials and engineers who will be coming to Federal Court in the next few months to remove the rest of the root and asphalt/hot-top the street so that it will be safer for pedestrians and car traffic.

## FSNA Board, officers for 2003-4

**Stanley Szwartz**, co-chair, (978) 745-1137 or [szwartz@us.ibm.com](mailto:szwartz@us.ibm.com)

**Michael Williamson**, co-chair, [mwilliamson@cosentini-ma.com](mailto:mwilliamson@cosentini-ma.com)

**David Hart**, treasurer, (978) 744-8208 [davidatsalem@attbi.com](mailto:davidatsalem@attbi.com)

**Will Wrightson**, secretary, (978) 741-2887 [wlwrightson@wellington.com](mailto:wlwrightson@wellington.com)

**Jane Arlander**, Board/Federal Court (978) 744-0916

**Rita Markunas**, Board/Crimewatch, [rmarkusan@msn.com](mailto:rmarkusan@msn.com)

**Pam McKee**/Social Committee, [mckee\\_pam@hotmail.com](mailto:mckee_pam@hotmail.com)

**Ann Whittier**, Newsletter layout, [RSDesign9@aol.com](mailto:RSDesign9@aol.com)

Our Neighborhood Association is also interested in helping to make a nicer streetscape for the rest of Federal Court. Led by our Federal Court Chairperson, Jane Arlander, we will be reviewing issues of the abandoned property and improving the streetscape. As you may know, there is an entrance to the Peabody Museum's beautiful Ropes Mansion at the end of Federal Court. Sonny Anciello, the head gardener, sets up his shop and greenhouse here. FSNA will be scheduling a meeting with the Peabody Essex Museum to discuss ways to make Federal Court a more beautiful place.

## Become a member of Federal Street Neighborhood Association

Throughout 2002, FSNA has provided our monthly newsletter, *The Federalist*, to over 240 residences in the greater Federal Street area. As you've read, there are a few neighbors are at the core of the operations who try to keep you informed and in touch with what is going on in our neighborhood. We know that many people have families

and are busy trying to make ends meet, so if you cannot help by volunteering your time, please join us by filling out the membership form below. Keep in mind that the annual dues help to cover the administrative costs (including the newsletter) that keep our group going. Eventually, we'd like to provide the newsletter via e-mail as well, so, if you

like that concept and have the capabilities, provide your e-mail address below. The Federal Street Neighborhood Association is also connected to a Web site where you can find up-to-date meeting schedules and citywide issues being addressed. Simply go to [www.salemcityzens.org](http://www.salemcityzens.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of a membership:

\$7 for an individual

\$10 per family

Please make your check payable to the Federal Street Neighborhood Association, and mail it to David Hart, FSNA Treasurer, 104 Federal Street, Salem, Mass. 01970.