

MEETING THE MERCHANTS THAT MAKE OUR VILLAGES GREAT

We are profiling the business owners that make our villagers interesting. Here's a snippet of one profile. To read more about this and other businesses, search our site for "village business profile." Or contact [Pam Boiros](#) to have your favorite business profiled.

KARMA FINE IMPORTED CRAFTS

57 Union Street, Newton Centre. Retail & gallery, bridging cultures through fair trade. Established in 2006.



What is your biggest business challenge?

Ensuring that all the goods we sell are fair trade, and that they conform to *our* definition of social responsibility – not just that the suppliers and artisans are paid a fair price, but also that that we are supporting their overall family and economic sustainability.

What do you know for sure?

We are all here to give love and receive love.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Kim Nauen of Waban, Sean Pears of Newton Highlands, and Tova Soy of Auburndale. Welcome, and thank you for your support!

WHERE CAN I PARK IN WEST NEWTON?

NEWTON VILLAGES confronts the challenge of managing parking

Since our inception, our members have been concerned about outdated parking policies. They can prevent restaurants from expanding, or make it hard to find a spot near the shop you want to visit. Now we can help write that policy.

Mayor Warren recently convened the Transportation Advisory Committee, which will develop transportation policy over the next 12 months. NEWTON VILLAGES co-founder Matt Cuddy is chairing the Parking Subcommittee, along with interim Planning Director Candace Havens.

We will continue to push for common-sense reforms to Newton's parking policies, drawing on insights from fellow residents and our friends in the business community. Learn more about the TAC at newtonma.gov/planning/TAC. Join the Parking Subcommittee by contacting [Matt Cuddy](#).

PAVING THE WAY FOR MORE FESTIVALS

How-to guide is the latest step toward more community gatherings

Community leaders in Newtonville and West Newton have initiated discussions about creating new village festivals next year – thanks to the work of NEWTON VILLAGES members.

NEWTON VILLAGES sparked interest in new street fairs by creating a compact guide to starting and organizing a village day. NEWTON VILLAGES members interviewed organizers from the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council and Waban Improvement Society, and then packed those insights into a compact and readable booklet, published on our website.



Festival-goers enjoy another great Newton Highlands Village Day. Lessons from its success fill a how-to guide just published by NEWTON VILLAGES.

Written by Sean Pears and designed by Betsy Blazar, the guide is full of tips from the Village Day experts. For example: hire local high school students for reliable help and to get their friends to come. If you live Auburndale, Newtonville or West Newton, talk to your neighbors and aldermen about starting your own village day. If you need help getting started, let us know.

WHAT IS NEWTON VILLAGES?

NEWTON VILLAGES is a non-profit membership organization working to help our village centers thrive. We focus on partnership with businesses, other residents, and the city government, because each plays a unique role in improving our village centers.

Developing a vision for Needham Street

A group of MIT graduate students this fall is studying how Needham Street may be improved through future redevelopment.

In a preliminary presentation on Oct. 28, the group outlined four goals of this semester-long project:

1. Create a safe and comfortable environment for cars, bikes, and pedestrians.
2. Maintain existing industrial uses and promote fine-grain [ed. smaller blocks] mixed use.
3. Create a more cohesive and attractive physical environment.
4. Create a recreational open space network.

The group presents its final recommendations in early December.

City Planning at the Newton Free Library

NEWTON VILLAGES collaborated with the Reference Department of the Newton Free Library to present a City Planning display. Reference librarians gathered books for the display and compiled a bibliography of the library's holdings. Patrons checked out many of the titles.

Images were recommended by Newton's Planning Department. Images and text were produced by NEWTON VILLAGES. We'd like to thank Nancy Johnson, Alice Ingerson, Phil Herr, and others for their input.

NEWTON VILLAGES formed in 2009 with the vision of helping our village centers become more vibrant, largely through fostering cooperative dialogue among our villages' many stakeholders. Many of us want more pleasant, viable, and interesting public spaces in Newton. If we each contribute what we can to the effort, we believe we can make it happen.

WHO'S INVOLVED?

NEWTON VILLAGES' six-member steering committee includes residents of six different villages. We come from a variety of professions, and have served on various boards and committees in Newton. Some of us have been here for 25 years, and some for only two. In the past year, we have partnered and met with over 100 community groups, committees, residents, and businesses.

Co-Founders

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Steering Committee

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ART FOR THE MASSES

New partnership gets local artists' work up in village businesses

NEWTON VILLAGES has launched a partnership with the [Newton Art Association](#) to place Newton artists' work

in our village center businesses. Our first project pairs the husband & wife team of [John Borchard](#) and [Marian Dioguardi](#) with Eunice Feller, co-owner of Bread & Chocolate. Eunice's Newton Highlands location will rotate the couple's pieces on a monthly basis.. Artists looking to participate should contact the [Newton Art Association](#). Merchants wanting to host art, and volunteers looking to help with staging etc. should contact [John Sisson](#).



BRINGING BIKE RACKS TO VILLAGE CENTERS

NEWTON VILLAGES worked with Bike Newton and city officials to bring more than 80 new bicycle racks to village centers, at T stops, in parks, and around public buildings and schools.

Under the direction of City Transportation Planner David Koses, volunteers helped determine useful locations for the racks.

The racks include simple hitches for parking bicycles on a sidewalk and larger racks that can accommodate seven bikes. A few whimsical racks -- in the shape of a fork and spoon -- will be located in village centers.

To pay for the racks, Koses secured \$20,000 through the Clean Air and Mobility Program (CLAMP) under the Regional Bike Parking Program administered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The program is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Visit our [website](#) to see the full list of locations where racks will be installed.

JOIN US!

We are always seeking new voices in the conversation. Please use this newsletter and our website, <http://www.newtonvillages.org>, to find opportunities for volunteer work, or contact us directly. We also welcome contributions to defray our expenses. A contribution of \$50 or five hours of volunteer work makes you a full member, which entitles you to early updates on our work and the opportunity to help determine what we do next. Contact [Matt Cuddy](#) for more information.