

B·R·O·O·K·L·I·N·E CITIZEN

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Villagers seek cop on the beat

By Sarah Ragland

Nearly 200 residents and merchants of Brookline Village are hoping to make their streets safer, or at least gain the perception that they are safer, with a request that town leaders supply them with a police officer to patrol the village's commercial area on foot during the daytime.

On Tuesday night, a group of village merchants testified to the board about the need for a foot patrol officer and presented them with a petition signed by 180 merchants and residents endorsing the proposal.

However, the selectmen, who are somewhat divided on the issue, will not make a decision until they receive more information on the cost and effectiveness of the measure.

Merchants told the board that they are alarmed by an increase in crime, and the vulnerability of shopkeepers and clerks who often mind their stores alone.



JOHN GUAREE PHOTO

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Concerned by the crime rate, village merchants and residents hope to get a foot patrol officer.

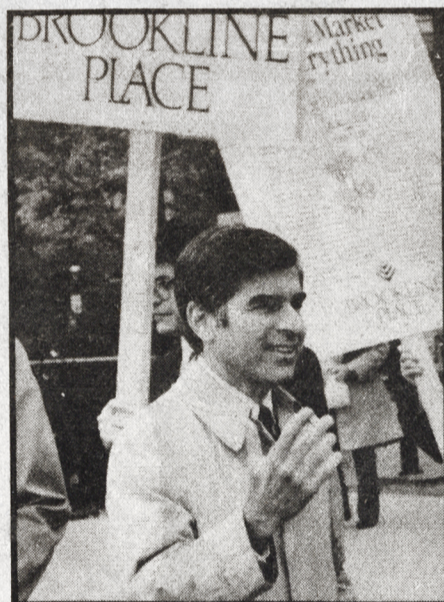
'86: Year of words

By Sarah Ragland

In Brookline, the freedom of speech is a most cherished right, and exercised often. Because Brookline people like to talk things out, and because they do so frequently and at length, the *Citizen* looks back on 1986 as a year of words—the words of local residents and the people that touched them during the course of the year.

Although some of the quotes that follow are amusing, and some are enlightening, and some are sad, they all tell the story of 1986:

"There is no chance of a change in the decision," said Frank Wyman of the Retirement Board's decision not to divest its funds from companies doing business in South Africa. Three weeks later the retirement board, in a unanimous vote, decided to divest. (January)



Gov. Dukakis was on hand for the dedication of Brookline Place.

"Hopefully it will be signed before the trees have leaves," said Selectman Jeffrey Allen in April of the ill-fated Police-School Agreement. (The agreement is supposed to define the work-

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Good will is goal of Managua trip

By Jack Malone

Brookline resident Tony Mack will be part of a construction brigade that will spend the next four months in Managua, Nicaragua, building a soil-testing laboratory.

Mack, a senior at the University of Michigan, is a member of the agricultural goodwill force known as Amistad Construction Brigade. The brigade is based in Ann Arbor, Mich., and will be sending 35 workers to Managua to construct the facility which, upon completion, will be turned over to the local agriculture university, the Institute of Agricultural Sciences (ISCA).

A lifelong Brookline resident who went to the Park School and to the Cambridge School of Weston, Mack will be one of the workers who will help construct the facility. When it is completed in March, it will not only house soil analysis equipment, it will double as a learning facility for Nicaraguan agriculture students attending the ISCA.

According to Mack, the intent of the Amistad project is to help the Nicaraguans achieve agricultural self-sufficiency. Until 1979 that country's richest lands were devoted to the production of export crops such as coffee, cotton and sugar, while food for national consumption was imported.

As an outcome of the revolution that took place in that country, Nicaragua had almost achieved agricultural self-sufficiency by 1984. The construction of the soil-testing facility should be an additional resource available to the farming industry in that country.

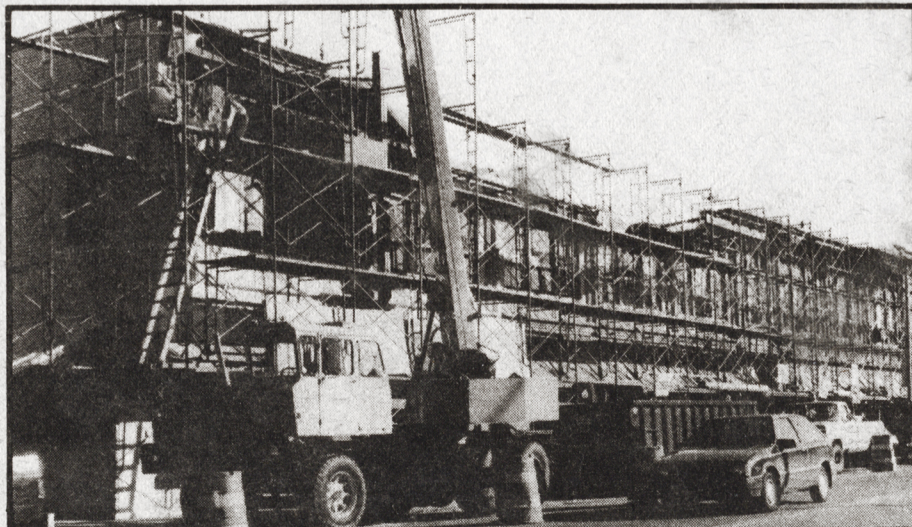


Brookline resident Tony Mack.

Mack was in Brookline recently on Christmas vacation and he departed earlier this week for Michigan to join the group that will leave for the Central American nation on Monday. Most of the Brigade will spend the next four months in Nicaragua.

While in Brookline, the 23-year-old Beverly Road resident told *The Citizen*

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Unightly and obtrusive scaffolding made life difficult for tenants of a Harvard Street building—not to mention pedestrians and shoppers.

BROOKLINE CITIZEN

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Start The New Year Right With A Classified—232-7000—2

Town OKs \$26,000 to ease load on work-weary rent board staff

By Sarah Ragland

The Board of Selectmen put its money where its collective mouth is last week by approving the expenditure of \$26,000 to help ease the backlog woes of the town's overburdened Rent Board.

Two weeks ago, at the request of Selectman Jeffrey Allen, the selectmen reviewed the near-crisis situation developing in the rent control office. At that time town leaders learned that the backlog, instead of getting better, is becoming worse after a year of attempts made by the rent board to correct the situation through administrative channels.

Rent Board Chair Marjorie O'Malley warned the selectmen that although the administrative changes have been effective, a rise in the number of applications filed at the board, coupled with a turnover of staff in the rent control office, made additional resources necessary if the rent control board was to keep up with its ever-increasing work.

The selectmen made good on their promises to address the situation immediately by approving the additional funds which will pay for a new hearing examiner to process complicated cases, a case worker to process the simpler cases that do not require hearings, and additional clerical assistance. The new positions are temporary until June 30th when the situation will be re-evaluated.

The selectmen also agreed to extend the life of the rent control office's limited public assistance hours until June 30th in order to give staff members more uninterrupted time to work on cases.

There was no unwillingness on the part of the selectmen to give the rent board more money. The selectmen

are deeply troubled by the backlog problem—a problem summarized by Deputy Town Administrator Brian Sullivan, who wrote in a memo:

"Residents are routinely waiting five or six months for the resolution of their cases, and in a few instances, close to a year. The long delays in processing cases has already resulted in several lawsuits against the Town and has created severe hardships for many residents," he wrote.

Sullivan also noted, "it is clear that without additional resources, the office will not be able to resolve the backlog problem within the near future. This would be true even if the office was running at 100 percent efficiency. The fact is the caseload in the Rent Control office has more than doubled over the last few years while the staff has remained unchanged."

The rent board took its own decisive action last week, determining that after years of watching the work load, but not the budget, grow, enough is enough.

The rent board will request a Fiscal Year 1988 budget that calls for \$125,813 over last year's budget for a total of \$413,253.

The goal, apparently, is to increase staffing so that the horrendous backlog of work plaguing the board can be eliminated, hopefully permanently.

The rent board's budget request calls for the funding of six new staff positions, including: two hearing examiners, a technical assistance coordinator (who will answer general questions and develop educational materials), an assistant counsel, a part-time data base administrator, and a part-time secretary. The board is also requesting additional funds to pay for contractual services, sup-

plies, a typewriter, desk chairs and filing cabinets.

Whether they get what they're asking for will ultimately rest with town meeting, but rent board members are likely encouraged by the selectmen's action last week and the commitment of town leaders to address the rent control "problem."

Selectmen Chair Zvi "Skip" Sesling feels the rent board is way overdue in receiving a budget increase.

"A [rent board] budget increase won't bother me. If you're going to pass laws that increase their workload, you've got to give them the personnel," he said, adding that the problem of the backlog is worsened because "more and more people are waking up and finding out that they need removal permits."

"They need it," he noted, "they're way behind in being granted relief."

The rent board and the board of selectmen, in addition to examining budget increases for the rent control office, will also look at changing the rent control fee schedule in an effort to offset the costs of a bigger budget.

"During my review it was apparent that the fees charged for processing petitions are woefully inadequate. For a case that would require several days of staff time and out-of-pocket expenses of several hundred dollars, the fee may only be six dollars. The total cost of the Rent Control office, including overhead costs, is a minimum of \$350,000 yet revenues total under \$200,000. I would recommend that the entire fee schedule be reviewed with a goal of increasing revenues by approximately \$100,000," Sullivan wrote.

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Amistad

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Citizen why he was drawn to the project.

In addition to his Social Science major at the University of Michigan, he has concentrated a portion of his studies on Latin American development. He said he has political reasons for taking part in the program. Mack likened the current U.S. policy in that country to a "destructive one" while he said taking part in the Amistad program would promote a "positive change."

"I was frustrated with our country's Nicaraguan policy and wanted to help express we can be positive, constructive and helpful," he said.

His background in Third World development drew him to the Amistad (the Spanish word for friendship and the acronym for Ann

Arbor-Managua Initiative for Soil Testing and Development) project. "The Nicaraguan policy is aimed at feeding. At growing enough food for their people," he said.


While in Managua, Mack, who is the son of John and Sally Mack of Beverly Road, will be staying with Nicaraguan families. Although there is fighting reported in that country between the U.S. backed Contras and the ruling Sandinistas, he noted most of that was in the countryside and would not pose a danger to himself or his workmates in the Amistad brigade who would be working and living in the safer Managua city proper.

The Amistad Construction Brigade draws its members from all over the U.S. It raised the \$25,000 needed for the project through donations.

Girl recovers, is Nutcracker star

Even as the Boston Ballet was giving its final performances of its latest production last weekend at the Wang Center, a young Brookline dancer had her dreams answered—much like Clara in *The Nutcracker*. Sidelined recently by a foot injury, Neva Hicks recovered quickly enough to play a bunny in the last three performances of that ballet. Dancing in her first *Nutcracker*, Neva, 9, has studied dance and clarinet at the Boston Ballet for two years.

Neva and her twin sister Emily have shared a good part of their performing careers thus far. Both have appeared in Wheelock Family Theater's 1986 staging of *Peter Pan* as well as the ballet. Similarly, they are fellow singers in Youth Pro Musica.



Foot Notes

Dr. Scott H. Kaye, Podiatrist

GET THE MESSAGE

If feet are strained from overexertion or prolonged standing, a foot massage will help to revitalize them. Muscles will feel renewed as circulation speeds up. Some minor foot troubles may eventually fade as a result of foot massage. Muscle tone, pulse, and respiration should all improve as a vigorous massage helps dispel toxic substances. If there is not enough time for a foot massage, try rolling a golf ball under each longitudinal arch. This will help to loosen and limber up the feet. The only times to avoid a foot massage are if there are any signs of fever, infection, hemorrhage, phlebitis, thrombosis, varicose veins, jaundice, or any type of tumor. Otherwise, the podiatrist can demonstrate proper massage technique.

In the course of your lifetime, your feet will be required to undergo tremendous stresses. Walking, jogging, climbing, hiking, running, jumping etc. are typical physical activities one will undertake. To withstand these various activities, feet must be in peak shape. Regular podiatric visits can keep feet in top physical condition. This has been presented as a public service to promote a better awareness of the benefits of podiatry by the office of DR. SCOTT H. KAYE, PODIATRIST, 1842 Beacon Street, Brookline. For an appointment, call us at 734-1414.

Never massage directly after a meal. It will divert blood flow from the digestive system.



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