



# The Quail Runner

Quail Run  
Condominium Trust

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June, 2007

*The Quail Runner, our condominium's newsletter, is published four times a year in March, June, September, and December to bring you information Unit Owners need to know. The Trustees would appreciate your comments and suggestions about how to improve The Quail Runner. Please send in your ideas and material for publication. See contact information on Page 12.*

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## FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PROPERTY MANAGER

I am sitting here looking out the window at the beautiful weather and wishing that I was working at a property rather than sitting here pounding on the computer keyboard. We just had a beautiful Memorial Day weekend and I think that summer is here to stay.

Rich has the pool cleaned and opened for business. We had to replace a grate at the bottom of the pool, so we hired a person with scuba gear and a wet suit to replace the grate rather than emptying the pool. There is a new stainless cooking grill for pool side cooking and maybe some new "Grill Master" can develop new recipes for the annual cookout.

We have had an infestation of termites this spring at Johnson's Grant and we are in the process of installing a "Centricon" system that has been used at Quail Run in the past. This system is safe for children and pets. I would still urge caution to keep pets and children away from the plastic inserts in the ground. This system will be left in place for two years to insure that the termites are completely eliminated.

One of the reasons that termites invade your homes is wet wood and damp areas around the units. The landscaping committee has been

*(See BOYLE on page 2)*

## MUSINGS ON RESPONSIBILITY

It was a dark and rainy night... No, this isn't an introduction to a bad mystery novel, but it was dark and raining hard when I drove from our unit to the mail boxes to get our mail. As usual, I pulled way to the right to start a U-turn, but another car was driving in and stopping for mail. The rain, the poor visibility, and the distraction of the other car threw off my perception, and the turn did not go as planned. My right front bumper hit the downspout at the corner of the building, crushing the bottom and knocking off the curved piece.

When I got back to our unit a few minutes later, I sent an e-mail to Jim Boyle at APT telling him what I had done and letting him know that I would be financially responsible for the repair.

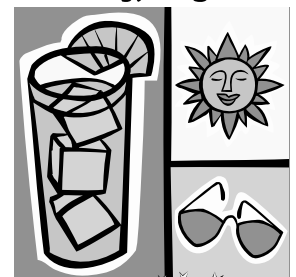
No, I am not holding myself out as some sort of moral paragon (although I'm sure my mother would be proud of me). I'm also confident that any Quail Run resident would do the same.

We have seen some outstanding examples of our vendors taking responsibility. As described in another article in this issue, our landscaping contractor, Vanaria and Sons, has taken full responsibility for the failure of trees planted

*(See MUSINGS on page 3)*



Save the date!  
Quail Run Cookout  
Thursday, August 9th





*(BOYLE Continued from page 1)*

working on cutting back the overgrowth of trees and shrubs around the property. This is not an easy job, and over the years, we have been making progress. Some people have questioned the removal of some of the trees and shrubs in the past, and one of the main reasons to remove excess trees and shrubs is to protect your property against pests such as termites. We also noticed a lot of carpenter ant activity when the building envelope project was done two years ago. We now have evidence of what damp or wet wood can cost your community.

The Trust will continue to work on this problem, but budget limitations limit the amount of work that can be done each year.

It has been noticed that some of the vinyl siding has warped, and we contacted Prime Touch. They will be returning to investigate and make any necessary repairs in the coming weeks.

Vanaria has reseeded the areas along the roadside and this will eliminate an eyesore from the grounds of Quail Run. The Landscaping committee is very busy with developing a plan to replace bushes that did not survive the winter.

Other than replacing a small retaining wall, replacement of garage doors and some road-work, there are no major projects planned for this year. Rich will continue to work around the property fixing lights, damaged siding and a multitude of other tasks. Remember, if you see something that needs to be done you should report this to Kathy Asmar.

***I hope that you all enjoy the summer at Quail Run.*** Jim Boyle



Display of peppers at Whole Foods  
Photo by Joel Seidman

## FRIENDS OF CUMMINGS PARK

*[The "Friends of Mary Cummings Park" has been incorporated as a non-profit corporation and filed for federal tax-exempt so that they can officially accept money from future fundraising. Their official address is 101 Middlesex Turnpike, Burlington, MA 01803-4914. Their website can be found at <http://cummingspark.org> and can be reached by a link from our website [www.quailruncondo.org](http://www.quailruncondo.org).*

*The following is taken from their website. Ed.]*

### **Help keep Mary Cummings Park the way it is meant to be!**

Mary Cummings Park is one of the great public parks of Greater Boston. This over two hundred acre public park on the Burlington-Woburn border was created by Mary P.C. Cummings 77 years ago and was entrusted to the City of Boston to be kept forever open as a recreational park.

In recent years, the City of Boston has tried to discourage public access and has investigated selling the park to fund the Rose Kennedy Greenway. Surrounding the park itself is about another 130 acres of undeveloped land, some of which is protected under conservation easement, but much of which is threatened with development.

Included in this surrounding land is a 75-acre parcel owned by Northeastern which extends deeply into the park; a 40B [*low-income housing - Ed.*] proposal by Archstone-Smith to build 540 apartment units on this parcel is currently under appeal. We believe that Mary Cummings Park, the surrounding conservation lands, and open space, provide much needed outdoor recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat as part of Greater Boston's own "Emerald Necklace". "Friends of Mary Cummings Park" has been formed to help keep our park forever open as a public park and playground, to promote recreation and the protection of its wildlife, habitat and watershed. We believe the best way to accomplish these goals is to help organize public support and grow our membership.



*(MUSINGS Continued from page 1)*

at Vine Brook Way. They have also agreed to repair the huge wooden planter box in Douglass Green that was damaged by a plow this past winter, even though that blade strike was only the straw that broke the camel's back; the landscaping timbers that make up the box have extensive rot in them.

And (with a little urging from Jim Boyle) they took responsibility for the killing of the grass strips along the roadways by the excess application of salt; they have hydroseeded the areas. None of these repairs and replacements will cost us anything – Vanaria is picking up the tab.

We noticed that some areas of the vinyl siding, installed two or three years ago, buckles in hot weather. The president of the contracting company, Prime Touch, came to inspect the problem. It appears the vinyl was nailed too tightly, with insufficient play to allow for expansion in the heat. Although the workmanship was warranted for only one year, he did not hesitate to assume responsibility for fixing it.

It is indeed nice when people step up to the plate.

We have seen some outstanding examples of our Unit Owners taking responsibility for the common areas in their clusters. The Vine Brook Way folks bought their own trees and continue to shepherd the project. Other Unit Owners have taken down deteriorated trees and still others have planted trees and shrubs. Still others have taken on the task of pruning trees within their cluster. (All of these projects had the blessing of the Landscape Committee and the Trustees.)

Can we do more to take responsibility? We are told to think globally but act locally. There has been much in the media over the last few months about global warming, the cost of energy, and the need for conservation. Here at Quail Run, our budget has been hit by the rise in what we have to pay for electricity for our lighting, alarm systems, and pool pumps. We have had our complex surveyed to see where we might be able to save some money, but there is not much we can do as a condominium association.

But as individuals, Unit Owners can do a lot for themselves and the global effort. A few simple measures can save each one of us hundreds of dollars a year and reduce our consumption of electricity (mostly generated here in New England from oil) and natural gas.

Replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFL's) is the single thing that will produce the most saving. CFL's are available in regular, flood, and 3-way styles up to the equivalent of 150 watts, but use only 1/3 of the energy.

Unplug chargers (phone, camera, cordless tools) when not actually in use.

When going away for extended periods, unplug appliances with clocks (stoves, coffee makers) or operated with remotes (TV's, entertainment centers, DVD's, etc.). These "silent" sappers account for 2% of the average household's use of electricity.

Tolerate one or two degrees lower temperature in heating season (as we still have now!) and one or two degrees higher in cooling season (we may get there some day). Each degree change saves 5% on your energy bill.

Finally, we have a responsibility to ourselves and our families – to have a busy, fun-filled, exciting, and safe summer season. Enjoy!

Joel Seidman



Joel Seidman helps with watering the newly hydroseeded lawn areas. Photo by Dick Clarke, who also did a lot of watering.



## LANDSCAPING AT QUAIL RUN

**T**he Landscaping Committee is sending out this information to make Unit Owners aware of the scope of the work going on in landscaping and to review a few of the regulations regarding landscaping at Quail Run that have been disregarded.

### Scope of the work

Since 2004, the scope of Landscaping Committee has been to work on a five-year program, ending in 2008, to reduce the extensive overgrowth of those shrubs and trees that are in proximity of the exterior of the units, lighting fixtures and walkways, pruning of deadwood and replacing deteriorated shrubbery at the front of the units. All of these areas are known as "Common Areas" and the Association has the responsibility to keep them up. Most Unit Owners take pride in having the common area around their units in the best shape possible and request replacements when shrubs have died, but there are times, due to budget constraints, the Association cannot immediately replace a shrub or tree that has died. The aim of the Landscaping Committee is to replace all dead plantings as soon as possible, meeting the budget constraints, with safety as the primary concern, followed by esthetics.

The Trustees each year set a budget that must be adhered to when making decisions as to the cost of changes the Landscaping Committee would like to make. The committee works one year in advance, i.e. we are working on the 2008 landscaping this year, or to put it another way the 2007 budget is already spent and the 2007 work is being completed now.

Each year we visit all clusters twice by walking the grounds, noting any problems in the landscaping of all units and the central greens of each cluster, then meet and go over each additional shrub and tree or landscaping work required.

The committee then requests Bartlett Tree Experts to give us a cost for each item of our proposal. If the total cost is above the budget figure, we revisit some areas, with Bartlett and the Property Manager, Jim Boyle, and make cuts to determine the landscaping we can afford

for the year. Bartlett guarantees each plant for one year; therefore in our walks we are also looking for anything planted in 2006 that need replacement this year.

There are still areas that have not, except for safety issues, been addressed fully – the center greens, the main entrance on Russell Street, and the backs of the units (where we have allowed Unit Owners to be creative). We hope to address these issues with the Trustees in the coming months.

The committee also is in charge of having Bartlett maintain tree health on the entire property, including root collar excavations, fertilization of damaged and declining trees and establish a Plant Health Care (PHC) program to suppress insects and diseases. We separate this cost, but it is included in our overall budget for the year in landscaping

### Rules and Regulations

There are Rules and Regulations that Unit Owners must adhere to in order to have "community landscaping" work properly. Please revisit the Unit Owners' Handbook that you were given when you moved in for a complete listing. Below are some major violations the committee has seen in the past that are making the Landscaping Committee's work very difficult.

1. Do not plant, replant, rearrange plantings or prune trees without informing the Landscaping Committee as to what you are going to do. Some Unit Owners have gone on their own and decided to make changes without informing any one. This is not only against the rules the Trustees have set up, but it could be very costly to the Unit Owner, because their work could be reversed and restored to its original condition and charged to the Unit Owner. There are forms in the Handbook to help Unit Owners request permission to make changes. Please use them.

2. If you do get permission from the Trustees to change the landscaping, and at some point in time decide to move, you must restore the area you changed or have the new owner agree to accept the changes you made. Some Unit Owners have been given permission to make a

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change such as putting in a small garden, only to have the new owners, not interested in gardening, let the area become overgrown and unsightly. The new owners then ask the Trustees to clean up the area, which becomes a cost to all Unit Owners. This is not what we want to happen here at Quail Run.

Everyone must understand that the committee has been working for four years trying to correct the previous 15 years of neglect!

Arthur Downing

### VBW LANDSCAPING UPDATE

*[A year ago, all of us here at Quail Run were congratulating Flo Fitzsimmons and the folks in Vine Brook Way for the way they came together and, at their own expense (\$3800), had a dozen Canadian hemlocks planted around the detention pond. They hoped that with time they would grow to provide a more pleasant prospect than they had. Ed.]*

**T**he trees died. All of them. Vanaria, who installed and guaranteed them, stepped up to the plate and replaced them. Most of those replacements died as well.

Greg Carbone (Bartlett Tree), at the Trust's expense, took multiple soil samples last month to determine if the pH of the soil needed adjustment. Only some minor treatment was required. It appeared that the trees died probably from lack of water.

Late last month Greg, Ned Antonellis (Vanaria Landscaping), Rich DeFilippo, accompanied by Joe and Florence Fitzsimmons met to discuss the replacement of the hemlocks. After a walk around the area, Greg and Ned recommended that seven of the Canadian hemlocks would be replaced by Vanaria with Norway spruce at no charge.

In addition to the above work, it was recommended that a water drip collar be installed around all thirteen trees (the remaining six Canadian Hemlocks and the seven replacement Norway spruce). Rich DeFilippo will obtain a price from a sprinkler contractor.

Florence Fitzsimmons

## QUAIL RUN NEIGHBORS TRAVEL TO LITHUANIA TO RESTORE CEMETERY

**T**wo longtime Quail Run residents, Joel Alpert and Nancy Lefkowitz of 13 Michael's Green, are traveling to western Lithuania this June to take part in an unusual restoration of the Jewish Cemetery of Yurburg (Jurbarkas in Lithuanian and as indicated on maps). After visiting the town of Joel's maternal grandparents in 2001 as part of a family trip, the group was approached by a Holocaust survivor of the town now living in Vilnius, Zalman Kaplan, to help rebuild the fence around the still standing cemetery. The cemetery miraculously has over 300 identifiable headstones. Most Jewish cemeteries in Lithuania were desecrated to the point of now being parking lots, soccer fields or, at best, an empty field nearly void of headstones because the stones had been carried off and used in construction.

Not being able to refuse such a request, the family members decided to create a not-for-profit organization to raise funds to build the fence. Thus, "Friends of the Jewish Cemetery of Yurburg, Inc." was founded in 2005 and in the fall of 2006, with the organizational help of the Jewish community of Kovno (Kaunas), the organization erected a new entrance to the cemetery (see photo below).

Shortly thereafter, Rabbi Edward Boraz, of Dartmouth College's Hillel (Hillel, named after a seminal 1<sup>st</sup> century rabbi, is a national organization of Jewish college students) contacted Joel because he had read on the Web about the work already in progress at the Yurburg cemetery. Dartmouth's Hillel has a unique program, called "Project Preservation" that has been in place for the past five years. This program brings students to renovate Eastern European Jewish Cemeteries that are in varying states of disrepair. Rabbi Boraz was looking for a cemetery for the 2007 project. Fortunately, based on the extensive research Joel has posted about the town of Yurburg on the Internet, as well as the cemetery's need for ongoing repair, Yurburg was ideal to meet the needs of the students and their project.

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Dartmouth Hillel will bring 15 students, both Jewish and non-Jewish, to do hands-on labor to improve the cemetery. The Dartmouth students will complete the work already begun by the not-for-profit organization, by erecting a new fence around the cemetery to replace the decaying one and also re-erect and repair downed and broken headstones. The students will also photograph, translate and catalog all existing headstones, and create a map for locating them. Once completed, all of this material will be placed on the Web. It is important to note, that Rabbi Boraz makes sure to involve local students from the town as well as the town authorities, to create a sense of ownership of the project by the town. For once the students complete their work and leave the town, there is no one to oversee the cemetery to be sure that it remains in good condition. There is not one single Jewish resident living in the town, in contrast to the 1923 census, when 1,887 Jewish residents constituted 43% of the town population. Furthermore, during World War II, the Nazis slaughtered 94% of the Jewish population

throughout Lithuania including Yurburg.

The restored cemetery will serve as a lasting memorial to honor the Jews who lived and died in Yurburg when the town was vibrant and held an important place for enhancing and enriching Jewish culture.

(On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Joel spoke to the Dartmouth students participating this summer. He discussed how he was motivated to learn about the town and tried to give the students insight into the history of the town.)

Nancy Lefkowitz

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**WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS**

<http://www.quailruncondo.org>

**T**he website has a new look that is intended to make it easier to navigate and find things of interest. The left side of each page now contains a consistent menu to make it easier to navigate from page to page.

We have also added a local search link that finds anything on the website pages or that appeared in past newsletters. If you want to find a newsletter article that you saw a few years ago, it is easy to do now. Just use the search link to enter one or more keywords that should appear in the article and the search engine will find it for you. This should make past newsletters much more useful.

We will continue to make improvements to the site. What would you like to see that we do not have now? What would you like to see done differently? Let us know! Send email to [webmaster@quailruncondo.org](mailto:webmaster@quailruncondo.org)  
 Walt Howe  
[walt@walthowe.com](mailto:walt@walthowe.com)



New entrance to the Yurburg Jewish Cemetery constructed in fall of 2006





## SEARCHES FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD)

### Prologue

Two disparate disciplines have come together in the Mideast. A geophysical team with the same techniques and technologies they implemented in Egypt and Israel searching for tombs and artifacts became the team of choice searching for Iraq's underground storage chambers and remnants of WMD.

The geophysical technologies of magnetics and electromagnetics, classical methods in any earth science textbook, were used. These techniques are simply upgraded versions of the metal detectors used by beachcombers who search for coins after coastal storms. Other methods such as microgravity\* and seismic probing\*\* were implemented for specialized objectives, such as detecting underground storage structures. The data from all these tools are digital processing capable, i.e., can be fed into a computer and used to generate contoured grid maps. All are "real-time," i.e., the resultant maps are immediately available for identification of "targets."

### Chronology

The story goes back a few tens of years when an oil investor asked this writer to join him on a funded expedition into the Valley of the Kings. That outcome is the now well-known Tomb, KV 5, the many Sons of Ramesses II. After that success, we ventured into the Golan Heights to Rujm el Hiri (Stone Heap of the Wild Cat) and a new find of a large, but empty, Bronze

Age tomb. Using ground-penetrating radar (similar to aircraft tracking radar, but beamed into the ground), we traversed a central tumulus (a mound over an ancient grave), the central structure encircled by a series of stone walls with a diameter four times the size of Stonehenge. (See photo 1.) This particular structure is known by only a few; but most elements of the Golan Heights are known by only a few – too many minefields and leftover munitions from the several wars there.

Then came the first Gulf War and the UN Security Council Mandate to certify that Iraq no longer possessed Weapons of Mass Destruction.

*\*Microgravity is a geophysical method that measures minute changes in the force of the earth's gravity. It is now possible to measure gravity changes as small as 1 part in 1,000,000,000. Changes in gravity measured at the earth's surface reflect the underlying geological structure. Microgravity is an accurate and reliable method for detecting underground cavities, both natural and manmade.*

*\*\*Seismic probing is a method that uses a surface shock to generate sound waves, which are refracted and reflected underground. The way in which the waves are propagated varies as they pass through the different strata. The echoes of these waves are recorded using a highly sensitive microphone, yielding two- and three-dimensional images of underground structures*



Photo 1. Aerial view of Rujm Hiri

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tion. For a few years, hundreds of UN inspectors on an equal number of missions from New York City to Baghdad had searched. They did find remnants of destroyed weapons as well as computer file evidence of extensive programs for multi-year development of biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons.

The "underground" environment, however, was virtually overlooked. Many years of overhead satellite and U2 flight surveillance could only "see" what was on the ground or equipment burial areas inferred via construction activities. Thus, UN member nations were canvassed for underground search capability. The US stepped up to the plate and offered a team from my old company (Weston Geophysical Engineers) that by then had an enviable success record in those archaeological searches.

**What WMD Were Found and/or To Be Found**

Hundreds of prospective "hide" sites, on land and underwater settings were searched with our geophysical tools. We disclosed mostly trash remnants plus a few pristine, but clearly discarded, objects of interest; one box contained gold-plated valves in their original wrappings. After a few such successful missions, and the obvious "appreciation" by the Iraqi Command that we would probably find anything that they had hid, they "graciously" requested our presence to expedite the overall search program and the needed UN certification of "complete disclosure."

Could some part or parts of their WMD Programs still be among the missing?? Possibly, but not a highly probable situation. And, quite confidently, not of any substantial quantity. But, as a pundit once said, "one little atomic bomb can spoil an entire day!!"

A thought though. Like so many other aspects of our lives, we do live probabilistically!! And, for Iraq, those probabilities became more comforting the more we considered the extent and intensity of the UN inspection process!! As a first hand witness/participant and Team Leader for 12 missions, I can disclose that for their nuclear program to have suc-

ceeded, an isotope separation process must be effected, and the choices are slim – using centrifuges or Electromagnetic Isotope Separation (EMIS). Centrifuges require special tubing and the EMIS requires large coils. For the former we found well-machined aluminum tubing, and for the latter, we found two – and only two – sets of large diameter coils. The accompanying photo 2 is one of the two largest coils, the essence of the EMIS process.



Photo 2.

**Epilogue**

In a recent meeting with a member of our Congressional Delegation, I expressed my, perhaps naive, bewilderment that all or least most of the UN Inspection Team Leaders were not canvassed as to the likelihood of WMD prior to the start of the present Gulf War. He asked in reply, "Did you really believe that would happen?!"

V.J. Murphy, 8 Douglass Green

**BATTLE ROAD SAGA**

**O**n Patriots' Day this past April, the Woburn Historical Society's Living History Guild honored the sacrifice of those intrepid Woburn citizen soldiers who marched along Battle Road to Lexington to begin the fight that resulted in a new nation – our United States of America.

Some three dozen Guild members contributed to a reenactment of the scene at the site of the Tarky School (see accompanying story on Page 10), which sits astride the path of the Bat-

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tle Road. (For a description of the path itself, see Hal Scheibert's article *Take a Walk – 3* in the September, 2005 issue of *The Quail Runner*.)

The following is from the brochure put out by the Guild for the occasion.

*Two hundred and thirty-two years ago, this site was the scene of an historic human drama. The social fabric of the community was torn apart, and the lives of ordinary people were turned upside down as a nation was being born. As the colonies tore away from Mother England, which had provided both protection and burdens, everyone who lived here was affected. Divisions arose within families: fathers against sons, brothers against each other. Some took up arms; others fled, leaving behind their fortunes. Some never took a position; they sought only to survive each day.*

*The people of these times are long gone now, and America has become a mighty nation. Somehow, this little piece of land and its remarkable Old Battle Road have survived the centuries. It remains much as it was in April of 1775, its stone walls still standing.*

*Walk now over this same road, the road to-*

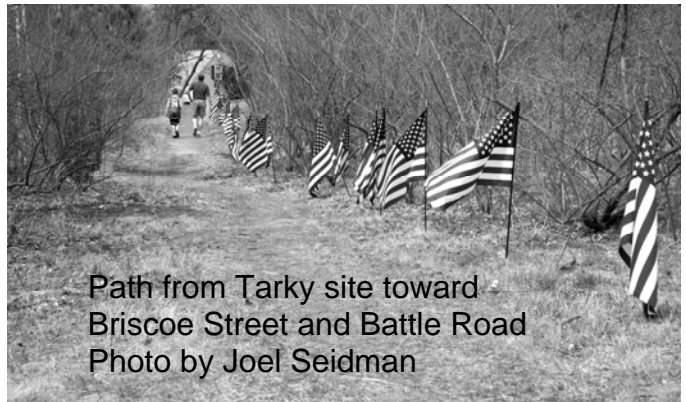
*ward Lexington, traveled that day by the 180 men and boys of the Woburn Militia. It is the same road they took back home carrying their dead.*

*These were not mythical people; they were real residents of Woburn! They lived here in your neighborhood, on your streets, and perhaps in your house. Their stories are of ordinary people. You will hear in their voices the hopes and fears they experienced that day as they started down the pathway to independence.*

*(Continued on page 10)*

*[If you are interested in the history of Woburn, here are three websites you browse.*

**CAUTION: You can get lost in them for hours! Ed.]**

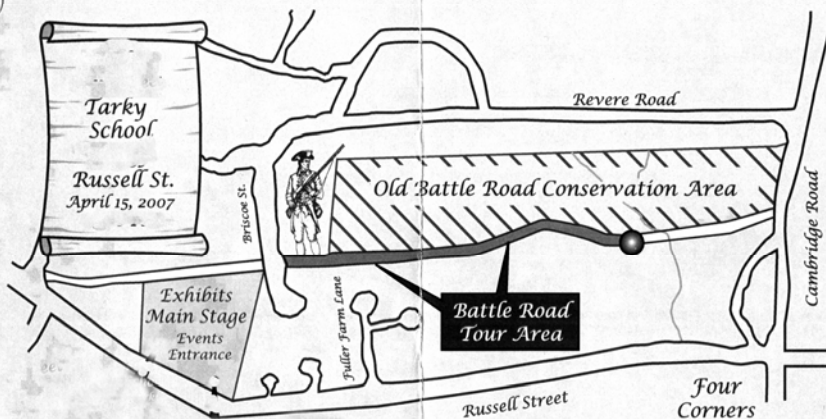


Path from Tarky site toward Briscoe Street and Battle Road  
Photo by Joel Seidman

# WOBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PATHWAY of the PATRIOTS



## Map of Old Battle Road



Members of Guild portray residents on Battle Road.  
Photo courtesy of Joel Alpert



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www.woburnhistoricalsociety.com  
www.yeoldewoburn.net  
www.woburnmilitia.org

### TARKY SCHOOL – HISTORY REVEALED

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**H**ave you ever wondered about that scruffy plot of overgrown scrub and stony trash at the top of the hill on Russell Street just to the east (toward Four Corners) of Stevin Drive? It is a great site for stargazing; its six acres have a fairly open view to the horizon. What was there? What happened to whatever it was? Who owns it? What is going to happen to it and when?

Thanks to the good offices of the Research Department of the Woburn Public Library, I found out.

The area had been known as the Scannell site (a name that bears further research) until the city decided in 1957 to build a new elementary school there. The school committee received a gift of \$25,000 from Miss Anna E. Tarky of Belmont in memory of her brother, William J. Tarky, who had died the year before, to be used for scholarships for graduating seniors pursuing further education.

At that time, the committee was considering what to name the school; in recognition of the gift from Miss Tarky, they settled on naming the school after her brother. Mr. Tarky had been a successful Woburn businessman/owner of a packing company, residing with his family in the house at 165 Cambridge Road, where the Battle Road trail comes out, at the intersection with Old Cambridge Road. (It is easy to spot – the number is painted on the rock at the foot of the driveway in huge numerals.)

He quietly donated generously to every fundraising effort in the city with the stipulation that there would be no publicity.

The school, built for a cost of \$1.1 million, comprised 10 classrooms when it opened in 1958, but was enlarged to 16 rooms in 1960 and to 20 in the 1970's by the addition of portable

units. With declining enrollments in the late '70's, the decision was made in 1981 to combine the Reeves and Tarky schools and eliminate the latter.

The school committee vacated the school and turned it back to the city. Several governmental agencies and private concerns expressed interest in buying the building and converting it into residences, but nothing came of those proposals. The structure fell prey to vandals and arsonists over the next several years. The grounds became a dump for trash; even stripped vehicles were abandoned there.

In 1986, the city appropriated money for the school's demolition, amid talk of building senior housing.

Over the next 16 years, the property hung in limbo, fought over by those who wanted senior housing and those who wanted it to remain open space for passive recreation. City officials had early on ruled out selling the land to private residential or commercial developers. Finally, in 2002 after much wrangling between the City Council, which wanted to rezone the property to Open Space, and the mayor, who wanted to delay the rezoning to keep open options for future use, the council won. The Tarky property is now open space, awaiting development as a park.

Joel Seidman

### GRADUATION CELEBRATION AND GEORGETOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

**E**veryone was in a party mood ready for early dinner out. Washington, DC was as exciting as ever and the hustle and bustle of Georgetown's narrow and Beacon Hill like streets were filled with beautiful, lively visitors from all parts of America. It was graduation weekend. The students had sisters, brothers, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends in tow showing off their years of success with the books.

We were seated, had cocktails, with entrees coming when suddenly outside; the street was filled with a forest of fire engines disgorging an army of firefighters in full battle gear at the

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ready; with fire equipment, hoses, safety yellow tape and all. No one moved. It was as though we were at an opera watching a boisterous scene unfold.

The firefighters trooped in wearing helmets with masks and space age gear on their backs, shoulders, arms, and waists carrying air tanks, wrecking pikes, belts, gloves, and cell phones. They checked everything and never even bumped my chair while we continued to enjoy our wonderful Italian meal. As far as I could tell, they spoke to no one as they looked in every room including the kitchen. I mean, at least thirteen firemen and one firewoman came and went. A rumor said there was some smoke next door and we had to be checked too. It was bizarre and took only fifteen minutes.

They moved back out front milling around with flashing red lights, a crackling radio, reloading scattered hoses and probably waiting for orders to return to the station. Curiosity peaked; I



eased out the front entrance to watch the re-loading of gear. A fireman, standing next to me mentioned that I was over the yellow tape and that I should go back inside. I said, "sorry" and at the same moment said to the woman firefighter that I was sure she would let me take her picture. Can you imagine? She obliged, I smiled "thank you," she smiled and I got the picture. Now I can share with you a photo of the prettiest and first woman firefighter I ever saw.

Peter Kelleher

### **SENIOR CITIZEN BUMPER STICKERS**

- ◆ **Senior Campbell's New Large Type Alphabet Soup**
- ◆ Quit worrying about your health – it will go away.
- ◆ I'm not old – I'm chronologically gifted.
- ◆ Florida – God's waiting room
- ◆ Experience is wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize mistake when you make it again.
- ◆ At my age, flowers scare me.
- ◆ I'm so old that whenever I eat out, they ask me to pay in advance.

### **NOTICES**

**Items, Services to Sell  
Items, Services Wanted  
Contractors You Like  
Restaurants You MUST Try  
Your Favorite Recipes  
Looking for partners for bridge?  
Mahjongg? Tennis?  
Put out your call in  
*The Quail Runner!*  
Do you have something that  
would go in this space?  
Let us know!**



**The Quail Runner needs to hear from you.**

We ask that all Unit Owners try to contribute material for publication. We will accept almost anything – social notes, requests for participation in activities, items wanted to buy or to sell, essays, editorials, poetry, letters, wildlife sightings, tips for Unit Owners, restaurant reviews, photographs (we publish in black and white only), etc. Please send any of these to the editor by August 27th for inclusion in the next (September, 2007) issue of the *The Quail Runner*. Articles should be limited to 500 words. The Trustees reserve the right to accept, reject, or modify any submission. We cannot publish anonymous submissions.

**LANDSCAPING HELP TO UNIT OWNERS**

**A**t its last meeting the, Quail Run Trustees, with the Landscaping Committee, put forth an idea to help Unit Owners with reseeded areas at the back of their units that have developed bare patches.

The basic idea is that the Trust would furnish the material, i.e. loam and seed, **if a sufficient number of Unit Owners agree to reseed areas that need it.** Unit Owners could do the work themselves or hire someone else to do the work of spreading the loam and seed. **Unit Owners would be responsible for watering the area until the seed germinates.**

The program would start in the fall. The loam would be bought in bulk, delivered to each cluster, and placed in a visitors' parking area for easy access. Wheelbarrows would be available for moving loam to individual units.

Unit Owners could take up to two yards and **would have to move the loam from the parking area and complete the reseeded within two weeks of its delivery.**

Any Unit Owner wishing to commit to participating in this program should call APT by June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 781 932-9229, Ext. 222 and inform Kathy Asmar. Kathy can also e-mailed at [kasmar@aptfin.com](mailto:kasmar@aptfin.com).

If there is enough interest, further information will be forthcoming during the summer.

For more information, call Arthur Downing at 781-933-6241.

Send submissions, preferably by e-mail, but typed materials are acceptable. Call or e-mail the editor with any questions or comments.

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**The Quail Runner is published four times a year. Contact Joel Seidman at 781-937-0406**

**[jseidman@massmed.org](mailto:jseidman@massmed.org) to submit material for publication.**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Are you interested in helping out on a Social Committee? Share your ideas and skills. Call Florence Fitzsimmons at 781-376-0250.**