

ELLIS SQUARE TRANSFORMATION SET FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30.

Ellis Square, located next to the Unitarian Universalist Church, has often been invisible to locals and visitors alike. Named for World War I veteran Harry Gordon Ellis who was killed in action in 1918, it was dedicated in 1921. Today, Ellis Square is in need of improvements with an assortment of older benches and well-worn bricks and cobblestones. However, exciting changes are in the works!

The City of Beverly recently hired a contractor to implement the redesign plans developed by local architects Matthew Ulrich and Rebecca Bachand of UBLA Landscape Architecture in collaboration with Beverly Main Streets, the City of Beverly, neighboring businesses, residents and local institutions. The new plans call for an expanded profile to make the Square more visible from Cabot Street and more inviting for the public with plantings, trees, and granite benches. Like the design, funding for the project was a collaborative effort. Beverly Main Streets raised \$100,000, from donations and through its "Buy-A-Brick" program. The City of Beverly's Community Preservation Committee also awarded \$221,663 for funding of the improvements.

Mayor Cahill stated, "The Ellis Square improvement project is one more effort to maintain downtown's forward momentum. People come from all over the North Shore and beyond to visit our restaurants, beaches, theatres, and participate in special events. They also come to live here and locate their businesses here. In order to maintain our vitality, we need to continually work to improve the many assets that already exist in Beverly; and thanks to the efforts of so many people Ellis square is one of these assets."

Construction on the project will begin on Friday, September 30 and should be completed in December with new bricks, granite benches, fresh landscaping and more. The final phase of the project will include a new veteran's memorial.