

ASHMONT OUTLOOK



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Greetings, Neighbors!

Thanks to Debbie Munson and Andy Schroeder for hosting (and cooking for) the February meeting.

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 31, at 36 Welles Avenue, at 7:30 p.m., hosted by Ayla Gavins and Kyle Gates. On the agenda:

- 1) City Councilor Ayanna Pressley will talk about the potential for establishing Cultural Districts in Boston under state legislation passed last year. Could Dorchester be a possible CD? What's involved? What are the benefits? Come find out.
- 2) Branch manager Nick Calos will give an update on the transition from Wainwright Bank to Eastern Bank.
- 3) Property owner Tinh Thanh Le has requested a zoning variance to extend living space (family room and half bath) into the existing basement of 22 Mellen Street. The variance is necessary because the added space would exceed the allowed floor area ratio. Mai Phung, of the Phung/Porzio Studio of Architecture, has asked to make a presentation about the plans in the hope of obtaining support. Abutters and other interested neighbors are encouraged to attend.

AHA has consistently been among the highest vote getters in past Dorchester Chili Cook-Offs and is entering

(continued on page 4)

It's Chili Time Again!

The fifth annual Dorchester Chili Cook-Off is back by popular demand, on Sunday, April 10, 3 – 6 p.m. at IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street. A fundraiser to benefit the Dorchester Day Parade, the Cook-Off is fun for all ages, with raffles, prizes, entertainment, and an impressive array of chili to sample, cooked up by organizations throughout Dorchester.

New this year: a panel of distinguished judges will award prizes for Best of Show, Best Non-Beef, Best Vegetarian, and Best Creative Use of Chili. A special Sombrero Award will be given for the best table decorations, server costumes, and team spirit. The ever-popular People's Choice voting will also take place: each ticket includes a handful of votes and there is no limit to how many additional votes can be purchased.

Advance purchase tickets are \$15/adult, \$25/family (up to four), kids under 5 free, and will be available at the March AHA meeting, or call Vicki Rugo at 617-288-8867. Tickets at the door are \$20/adult, \$30/family, and \$5 per additional child. Info: 617-265-5397 or dotchili2011@gmail.com.



Ashmont Hill Association Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 31
7:30 p.m.

36 Welles Avenue,
hosted by Ayla Gavins
& Kyle Gates
Supper at 7 p.m.
Desserts appreciated!

Agenda

Councilor Ayanna Pressley on
Cultural Districts
Nick Calos on Eastern Bank
Transition
Mai Phung on 22 Mellen Street
Zoning Variance

Community Calendar

Weekly Hatha Yoga Resumes
Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
(through Tuesday, May 31)
Fields Corner Library

DAC 4th Friday Potluck
Friday, March 25, 7 – 10 p.m.
Studio D, 11 Pearl Street

**Dorchester Coast
Greenway Meeting**
Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. – noon
Port Norfolk Yacht Club

(continued on page 4)

The way city living should be

The Ashmont Hill Association

was established in 1970. A non-profit 501(c)3 organization, its mission is to provide a forum to enhance the quality of life in and around Dorchester's historic Ashmont Hill neighborhood by fostering a strong sense of community among all residents.

We welcome news items of neighborhood interest, space permitting. Submissions (no longer than 250 words and including a contact name and phone number) should be sent to P.O. Box 240217, Dorchester, MA 02124, or left on the Message Line. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and length.

Advertising

Classified: \$10/insertion for heading and four lines of copy.

Business ads: \$30/insertion or \$250 for full year (10 issues).

Leave ad info request on Message Line.

News and advertising deadlines:

April 15, May 13, June 10

The *Outlook* is distributed approximately one week after each deadline.

The Ashmont Hill Association neither endorses nor warrants the products or services of Ashmont Outlook advertisers.

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Ashmont Hill Association

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Dorchester, MA 02124

Message Line: 617-822-8178

Email: info@ashmonthill.org

www.ashmonthill.org

AHA is grateful to the Codman Square Health Center for providing the Message Line.

To subscribe to the Ashmont Hill list-serve, send email request with your full name and street address to ashmonthillmoderator@yahoo.com

February Meeting Notes

Community Service Officer Mike Keaney was happy to have little to report for the immediate area and noted a fairly quiet month overall for the surrounding district.

Neighbors next heard from Luis and Yomiris Rodriguez, who plan to open a new restaurant called Sea Breeze Mexican Grill at 1782 Dorchester Avenue, at Shepton Street. They plan to serve primarily Mexican food, though they themselves are Dominican—Mexican food offering a greater variety—and have hired a professional chef to run the kitchen. The menu will feature healthy foods, with an emphasis on seafood.

Update! The restaurant opened Wednesday, March 23. Hours are 6:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m., serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, including a special kids' menu for those under 10. Check it out!

Following a presentation by Joe Gildea of photographs and schematic drawings for the proposed demolition and replacement of the fire escape at 15 Walton Street, neighbors present voted unanimously to support his request for the necessary variance. (Note: A support letter from AHA was sent to the Board of Appeals, and the variance was subsequently approved.)

The AHA Board is exploring options for how to make use of the gift of the Ashmont Hill quilt made by Ina Nenortas. The Board welcomes ideas for how to exhibit this beautiful piece of craftsmanship and creativity.

— David Mooney, *assistant clerk*

Another CSA Opportunity

Langwater Farm from Easton, MA is offering CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) memberships at the Ashmont/Peabody Square Farmers' Market this year. Shareholders get 15 weeks of Langwater Farm's Certified Organic produce starting the first week of the Farmers' Market (Friday, July 8) and ending the second week of October. Cost is \$450 for a full share and \$250 for a half share. There is no delivery

charge. Each week shareholders will select their own items from a list provided by Langwater based on produce available. Arrangements can be made to set aside shares for late arrivals. Info/to sign up: langwaterfarm@gmail.com or 508-205-9665; www.langwaterfarm.com.

Organized Bike Rides

Many people have expressed interest in scheduled rides that would originate at the new Ashmont Cycles bike shop. A race-training ride is being planned for Wednesday evenings, and a more leisurely ride is also being discussed. If you are interested in either of these rides, or have other ideas, please contact Jack Pelletier at 617-686-6552 or jack@ashmontcycles.com, or stop by the shop at 551A Talbot Avenue.

Dot Park Association News

DPA is planning a gala weekend of events to highlight and benefit Dorchester Park in late September and is looking for volunteers to help out. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Richard O'Mara at 617-825-8582 or richard@cedargrovegardens.com.

Codman Square Library 690 Washington Street 617-436-8214

Janice Knight, head librarian
Chris Strunk, children's librarian

Library hours:

Monday & Thursday 12-8

Tuesday & Wednesday 10-6

Friday & Saturday 9-5

Programs:

Storytime: every Tuesday, 11 a.m.; every Friday, 10:30 a.m.

Pre-School Films: every Friday, 11 a.m.
Homework Assistance Program (ages 6-12): 3:30–5:30p.m. Monday-Thursday, Saturday 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Game Day (all ages): Play all kinds of board games, Friday 3–4 p.m.

Call library to be sure events have not been cancelled.



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About the Neighborhood

DAC Potluck, Breakfast

Dorchester Arts Collaborative will hold a 4th Friday Potluck and launch its new website on Friday, March 25, 7 – 10 p.m., at Studio D, 11 Pearl Street. Bring something for the table; wine and soft beverages supplied. Info: 617-839-6734.

Breakfast Redux, DAC's forum for arts discourse, meets the third Friday of the month and welcomes all artists and others interested in developing and nurturing a healthy arts community in Dorchester. Venues change from month to month; check the new website for details: www.dac-online.org.

Dorchester Coast Greenway Community Planning Meeting

A meeting to discuss the Dorchester Coast Greenway will be held at the Port Norfolk Yacht Club, 179 Walnut Street, on Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. Conducted by graduate students from Tufts' Department of Urban Environmental Planning and Policy, in collaboration with the Boston Cyclists Union, Dot Bike, Boston Natural Areas Network, and Representative Marty Walsh, the meeting is intended to collect resident and stakeholder feedback on a potential greenway link between the Neponset River Trail and UMass Harborwalk. Info/comments: dotcoastgreenwayuep@gmail.com

Friends of the Codman Square Library

All interested neighbors are invited to join the Friends group. The next meeting is Thursday, March 31, 6 – 7 p.m. at the Library. On the agenda: the Summer Reading Kickoff, Learning Garden, Knitting Club, Chess Club, and Youth Council. The Friends usually meet the third Monday of the month. Can't make a meeting? Stay in touch

and get involved by joining our eList: send a request to csl.friends@yahoo.com. We look forward to meeting you!

Free Yoga Classes Resume

Free hatha yoga classes previously held in Codman Square are resuming on Tuesday, April 5, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Fields Corner Library, 1520 Dorchester Avenue. Classes will run for 9 weeks through Tuesday, May 31, and are taught by Integral Yoga instructor Alicia Zipp. Open to participants of all levels, including beginners, the class incorporates a gentle, meditative style of yoga. No registration is required. Parking is available in the lot across the street in spaces designated for two-hour parking. Info: Alicia at 617-282-6722 or alicia@night-kitchen.com

"Behind the Music" with Boston City Singers

Boston City Singers invites neighbors to a free Evening Tea on Tuesday, April 5, 7 – 8 p.m. at All Saints, Ashmont, to introduce BCS staff and board members, provide information about BCS's history and programs, answer questions, and offer a rehearsal visit or short performance. In sharing what they do, BCS hopes to attract support and volunteers for all aspects of their program, which now has nine choruses in Boston neighborhoods.

Ashmont Book Group

The next Book Group meeting is Wednesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m., at 22 Harley Street, hosted by Lil Konowitz. We will be discussing *True Grit* by Charles Portis. May's book is *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. Join us! Info: Lil Konowitz, klil@hotmail.com, or leave a message on the AHA Message line.

Dorchester Symphony Spring Concert April 10

The Dorchester Symphony Orchestra presents a Spring Concert on Sunday, April 10 at 3 p.m. at All Saints, Ash-

mont. Featured soloist is violinist Annie Chen, a student at the New England Conservatory of Music, who will play Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5. Also on the program: the Overture to Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and Haydn's Symphony No. 101 ("The Clock"). Tickets, available at the door, are \$10/adults; \$5/children age 6 -16 yrs; age 5 and under free. Info: www.dorchestersymphony.org. Advertising space is available in the concert program; contact Margaret Lamb, 617-282-1301, by April 1.

Historian James Green at Speaker's Forum

Dorchester Speaker's Forum presents a free lecture and discussion with UMass Boston professor and noted labor historian James Green on Friday, April 15, 7:30 p.m. at All Saints, Ashmont. At a time when unions are dominating domestic news, this presentation will attempt provide some context to consider when thinking about the issues. Green directs the graduate program in public history at UMass and teaches courses on the history of Boston, working class history, and social justice movements. Author of several books, he has served as president of the Labor and Working Class History Association, and was research director for the PBS series *The Great Depression*.

Show and Tell at DHS

The Dorchester Historical Society invites everyone to "show us your treasure and tell us its story," on Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m. at DHS headquarters, 195 Boston Street. Do you treasure your grandmother's necklace? Show it to us and tell us why she was important in your life. Do you collect something? Show an item from your collection and tell us why it interests you. (If you are shy, bring your children and have them tell the story!) Stories will need to be brief to allow time for everyone to speak. We'll all enjoy sharing!

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Community Calendar

Continued from page 1

**Friends of the
Codman Square Library**
Thursday, March 31, 6 – 7 p.m.
At the Library

BCS “Behind the Music” Tea
Tuesday, April 5, 7 – 8 p.m.
All Saints, Ashmont

Ashmont Book Group
Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
22 Harley Street

DSO Spring Concert
Sunday, April 10, 3 p.m.
All Saints, Ashmont

Dorchester Chili Cook-Off
Sunday, April 10, 3 – 6 p.m.
IBEW 103, 256 Freeport Street

DAC Breakfast Redux
Friday, April 15

**Dorchester Historical Society
“Show and Tell”**
Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m.
DHS Headquarters, 195 Boston Street

AHA Monthly Meeting
Thursday, April 28

**Boston Shines Neighborhood
Cleanup**
Saturday, April 30

Ashmont Hill Yard Sale
Saturday, May 21
(details next month)

Greetings Neighbors

Continued from page 1

this year’s competition with a new, sure-to-win recipe. Come support your neighborhood...and Dorchester Day!

Vixin Harrison-Tang

President, Board of Directors
Ashmont Hill Association



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neighborhood safe:
Porch lights on from
dusk to dawn.**




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Some Useful Phone Numbers

Boston 911 for cellphones:
617-343-4911

C-11 Community Service Officers:
617-343- 4524 Non-emergency only;
call 911 for ALL emergencies

Mayor’s 24-Hour Constituent Line:
617-635-4500 Call for all concerns; also
visit www.cityofboston.gov and click
“Citizens Connect.”

Snow Emergency Hotline: 617-635-3050

Public Works main: 617-635-4900

Recycling: 617-635-4959

TV/computer monitor pickup:
617-635-7574

Red Line/Ashmont Station
Reconstruction Hot Line: 617-222-6757

MBTA Police Emergency: 617-222-1212

MBTA Police Non-emergency:
617-222-1100

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