

ASHMONT OUTLOOK

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Guess It's Still Winter

Warm thanks to Gretchen and Miguel Suarez for hosting the well-attended January meeting. AHA's next monthly meeting is on Thursday, February 23, 7:30 p.m., at 97 Ocean Street, hosted by Bob MacEachern.

As mentioned at last month's meeting, the Boston Transportation Department has opened the application process for their 2017 Slow Streets project. This is a program to improve safety and address traffic issues in residential neighborhoods using "quick-install, low-cost fixes," such as pavement markings, improved visibility at intersections, speed bumps, and signage. BTM anticipates selecting two or three applications citywide. It will take a couple of years for the selected neighborhoods to complete the multi-step process.

Neighbors from the Ashmont Valley Neighborhood Association have approached the AHA board about partnering on a joint Slow Streets application. At this meeting, we hope to gauge community interest and any overall concerns before going forward in the process. The application deadline is March 24; the application has numerous components, and a show of community support is essential. To learn more, go to www.boston.gov/transportation/neighborhood-slow-streets.

(continued on page 4)



Greater Ashmont Main Street holds its annual Coattails & Cocktails gala on Sunday, March 19, 7 - 10 p.m., at Tavolo Ristorante, 1918 Dorchester Avenue in The Carruth. Neighbors are invited to a fabulous evening of delicious food and lots of fun, to support and celebrate the work of our local Main Street organization. Creative "black tie" attire is optional.

The evening's events are slated to include cocktail music by local jazz musicians Steve Fell and friends; a look at Greater Ashmont Main Street's past and future, hosted by WGBH State House correspondent and Dorchester resident Mike Deehan; an enticing assortment of silent auction items; and a photo booth by Mike Ritter of Ritterbin Photography. Guests will enjoy Tavolo's renowned dinner-by-the-bite, passed champagne, and non-alcoholic

(continued on page 2)

Ashmont Hill Association Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 23,
7:30 p.m.

97 Ocean Street,
hosted by Bob MacEachern
Light supper at 7,
desserts appreciated

Agenda:

1857 Dot Ave Development Proposal
Discussion of BPD
Slow Streets Project
C-11 Report, Announcements,
New Business

Community Calendar

Winter Farmers Market

Every Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
through March 25
Great Hall, Codman Square

Coffee Hour at the Library

Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Codman Square Library

Free Hatha Yoga

Every Tuesday through March 14
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Fields Corner Library

Dot's Witch, Dorchester Parishes

Sunday, February 19, 2 p.m.
Dorchester Historical Society,
195 Boston Street

(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.

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Coattails and Cocktails

Continued from page 1

beverages, with a cash bar for other cocktail creations.

The event is Greater Ashmont Main Street's biggest fundraiser of the year; proceeds help make possible the programs and activities that support and enhance businesses in the district's 1.1-mile stretch of Dorchester Avenue. Advance tickets are \$80 for one (\$40 tax-deductible) or \$75 each for two or more purchased together (\$35 of each ticket tax-deductible). Pay online at greaterashmont.org/donate/ (you do not need a PayPal account to pay there) or pay by phone with credit card at 617-825-3846 during business hours. The event sold out last year, so do plan ahead!

January Meeting Notes

C-11 Community Service Office Mike Keaney reported that several nearby convenience stores were robbed in January. A night-time apartment break-in occurred on Talbot Avenue; the suspect, who ran away, had been seen in the building earlier but no one called 911. A pedestrian stuck by a car at Dot Ave and Wrentham Street suffered life-threatening injuries; the car was found abandoned in Quincy. Tire thieves were apprehended on St. Mark's Road. An Ocean Street neighbor discovered a bullet hole through a window and into a wall that may have been related to the phone theft on the street in late November.

Josh Wilson, program assistant and Farmers Market manager for Greater Ashmont Main Street, described upcoming events, including the market, which opens in late June. A new Main Street program guide and directory includes business listings, district map, event calendar, and community resources; the same information, frequently updated, will be on the new website. Suggestions for possible Farmers Market vendors, particularly local ones, are welcome. There is space for food trucks at the market, but they need to do enough

business to make it worth their while. What activities on the plaza would complement the market? Main Street annual memberships are \$20/individuals and \$50/businesses; participation in the organization's committees is welcome. Learn more, make suggestions, and/or join at www.greaterashmont.org.

Meg Campbell from Codman Academy gave an update on the school, which is located at the Codman Square Health Center and in the Lithgow Building. Enrollment this year is 350 students from K1-12. The entire school goes on a camping trip every summer. The renovated Lithgow Building, which houses the lower grades, will be LEED Gold-certified; research on trauma and autism informed the design of the new space: calming rather than primary colors are used, and every room looks different, to help students feel grounded. Most students come from the neighborhood, but applications are city-wide; they have openings for 20 students in the Fall, and 2,500 applications. Instead of having a class valedictorian, graduating students each give a speech during the year; a dean of alumni provides support to graduates. They partner with the Health Center and Epiphany School for free healthcare and childcare. Neighbors are invited to tour the school any time. Meg can be reached at Mcampbell@codmanacademy.org.

A review of local developments included: 719 Washington Street is now under construction, with 8 three-bedroom rental apartments; DND is looking for input on 661-663 Washington St and 6 Euclid prior to issuing a request for proposals; the owner of 1857 Dorchester Ave. will present at next month's meeting; 500 Talbot Avenue is reportedly under agreement, to be developed for housing and commercial space; the Peregrine project at Odwin will go into construction in the spring; BTM has announced their 2017 Slow Streets program.

Eli Pimental from Councilor Campbell's office reported that there were lots of different ideas for the Washington/
(continued on page 3)

The way city living should be



About the Neighborhood

Ashmont Hill Book Group

Book Group's next meeting is on Wednesday, March 1, 7:15 p.m., at 71 Ocean Street, hosted by Barbara Hough. The book for March is *The Country of the Pointed Firs* by Sarah Orne Jewett. April's book is *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut. Book Group meets the first Wednesday of the month; all are welcome. Info: Lil Konowitz, klil@yahoo.com.

Borromeo String Quartet Returns

Ashmont Hill Chamber Music brings back the acclaimed Borromeo String Quartet on Sunday, March 5, at 4 p.m., in Peabody Hall at All Saints Church. The program, which explores the remarkable friendship between Mozart and Haydn, features the Mozart String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465 "Dissonance" and the Haydn String Quartet Op. 77 No. 2 in F major. Purchase tickets, \$25, at www.ahchambermusic.org or mail check to AHCM, P.O. Box 240253, Dorchester, MA 02124.

Cold Night/Hot Stove

All Dorchester Sports League holds its annual "Cold Night/Hot Stove" fundraiser on Friday, March 24, 7 - 11 p.m., at First Parish Dorchester, 10 Parish Street. Dance to the sounds of The Mood Swings; learn how to swing with lessons by The Renegaydes. Snacks by The Blarney Stone; cash bar for wine and beer. Four raffle prizes include Tom Brady's signed UGG! Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door; purchase at www.alldorchester-sports.org or mail checks, payable to ADSL/CNHS, to ADSL, 1565 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02122 by March 17.

Save the Date for Chili!

The 11th annual Dorchester Chili Cook-Off will be on Sunday, March 26, 4 - 7 p.m., at IBEW Local 103 on Freeport Street. Contestants from every corner of the neighborhood will compete for bragging rights to the best chili in Dorchester. There will be live entertainment, music, games, and prizes for the whole family. Admission \$20/adult, \$30/family of up to 4, \$5/additional child. Vote for the People's Choice winner, where it is perfectly legal to buy votes! All proceeds benefit the Dorchester Day Parade.

Propa City Community Outreach

Propa City is offering its programs, starting in March, at 1565 Dorchester Avenue in Fields Corner:

— TeamSimeon pregnancy loss awareness group: every 1st and 3rd Friday, 6:30 p.m.

— Propa Talk teen discussion group: every 2nd and 4th Friday, 6 p.m.

Info: www.propacityco.org, or email info@propacityco.org.

Dot's Witch, Parishes, New Bostonians

On Sunday, February 19, at 2 p.m., at the Dorchester Historical Society, two graduate students from the UMass Boston public history program will present their research projects on Dorchester's past.

Dorchester's Only Witch: Shame, Sexuality and Witchcraft in Colonial New England, by Sarah Black. Around 1650, Alice Lake was charged with witchcraft and sentenced to the gallows. Learn about the relationship between sexuality and witchcraft at the time, which helps to understand how Alice may have solidified her identity as a "Handmaiden of the Devil."

Fourteen Foundations: The Beginnings of the Catholic Parishes of Dorchester, by Rev. George Evans. Between 1889 and 1914, the number of Dorchester's Catholic parishes grew

from two to eleven, with three more added later. Learn about the major common threads and a few unique features that characterized the establishment of the various parishes.

On Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m., Marilynn Johnson, Professor of History at Boston College, will talk about her recent book, *The New Bostonians: How Immigrants Have Transformed the Metro Area Since the 1960s*. Professor Johnson teaches modern American urban and social history; her research focuses on migration, urban social relations, and violence.

Both programs take place at DHS Headquarters, 195 Boston Street. They are open to the public free of charge.

January Meeting Notes

Continued from page 2

Euclid parcels; there will probably a second meeting. She introduced Cheryl Harding, who is charged with reaching out to seniors within the Councilor's district. Dave Cotter from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services reported that BPDA is starting a planning initiative for Glover's Corner and seeks community input; learn more and comment at www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/planning-dorchester-glovers-corner. Steve Harvey from Councilor Flaherty's office introduced himself. Rep. Russell Holmes explained his position on the marijuana referendum and discussed the proposed pay raise package.

— Lianne Ames, note taker

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Community Calendar

Continued from page 1

BPDA Community Meeting
re: 1857 Dot Ave
 Monday, February 27, 6 p.m.
 St. Mark's Church, 1725 Dot Ave

Ashmont Hill Book Group
 Wednesday, March 1, 7:15 p.m.
 71 Ocean Street

Borromeo String Quartet
 Sunday, March 5, 4 p.m.
 Peabody Hall, All Saints Church

"The New Bostonians"
 Sunday, March 19, 2 p.m.
 Dorchester Historical Society,
 195 Boston Street

Coattails & Cocktails
 Sunday, March 19, 7 - 10 p.m.
 Tavolo Ristorante

AHA Monthly Meeting
 Thursday, March 23

Cold Night/Hot Stove
 Friday, March 24, 7 - 11 p.m.
 First Parish Dorchester, 10 Parish St.

Dorchester Chili Cook-Off
 Sunday, March 26, 4 - 7 p.m.
 IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport St.

Ashmont Hill Yard Sale!
 Saturday, May 20

From the President

Continued from page 1

Also at the meeting, Steven Connelly from Connelly Construction will present his company's development proposal for 1857 Dorchester Avenue (just north of Peabody Square) that includes 20 rental units and two commercial spaces. In addition to being presented to local neighborhood organizations, the project is going through the BPDA's Article 80 Small Project Review process, with a community meeting scheduled for Monday, February 27, 6 p.m., at St. Mark's Church. It will also need Board of Appeal approval.

Lots to learn about; we hope to see you at the meeting.

David H. Mooney

for the AHA Board

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