

ASHMONT OUTLOOK

Published at Dorchester, Massachusetts by the Ashmont Hill Association, Established 1970

It Must Be Spring!

Many thanks to Judy Planchon for hosting last month's AHA meeting, and special thanks to the Ashmont Grill for providing their always delicious mac-and-cheese for supper.

The next AHA meeting is on Thursday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m., at 2 Burt Street (at Ashmont and Ocean), hosted by Lianne Ames and Donna Cioffi. On the agenda: John Finley, head of Epiphany School, to talk about Epiphany's plans to develop an early-learning center; Mellon Street neighbor Liora Beer, to tell us about the Fairmount Innovation Lab, which supports creative enterprises along the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line; and Marissa Friedman from the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, which produces Shakespeare on the Common every summer, to describe CSC's new "Shakespeare OFF the Common" project, focused in part in Dorchester.

As the snow and ice recede, we look forward to longer and warmer days...and lots of cleaning up. Boston Shines for Dorchester will be on May 2; in the meantime, let's all get a head start on spiffing up the neighborhood by cleaning curbs and sidewalks as much as possible.

David Mooney

President, Board of Directors
Ashmont Hill Association

DOT

CHILI COOK-OFF 2015

Bring your kids, your friends, and your neighbors to the 9th annual Dorchester Chili Cook-off, on Sunday, March 22, 4 - 7 p.m., at IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street, just up the street from Yale Electric and with plenty of parking. The Cook-off is a great event for all ages, with live entertainment, music, games, and prizes for the whole family. Arrayed around the room are contestants from every corner of our community competing for bragging rights to the best chili in Dorchester. As is the tradition, the Ashmont Hill Association's cooks will serve a very tasty vegetarian chili...always popular with the health-conscious and vegans in the crowd.

Prizes will be awarded Best in Show, Best Non-Beef, and Most Creative Dish, as well as Best Decorations/Costumes/Team Spirit. Even more hotly contested is the People's Choice Award, where there is no limit to how many votes can be purchased. Cook-off tickets, available at the door (and including several People's Choice "votes"), are \$20/adult, \$30/family up to four, and \$5 for each additional child. Funds raised

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Ashmont Hill Association Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 26
7:30 p.m.

2 Burt Street, hosted by
Lianne Ames & Donna Cioffi
Supper at 7, desserts appreciated

Agenda:

John Finley, Epiphany School
Liora Beer,
Fairmount Innovation Lab
Marissa Freedman,
Commonwealth Shakespeare Co.

Community Calendar

Dorchester Winter Farmers' Market

Fridays, 3 - 7 p.m. through March 27
Great Hall, Codman Square

Free Hatha Yoga

Fields Corner Library
Schedule in flux: see calendar at
www.bpl.org/branches/fields.htm

"Urban Religion & the Origins of Addiction Recovery"

Sunday, March 22, 2 p.m.
Dorchester Historical Society,
195 Boston Street

Dorchester Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, March 22, 4 - 7 p.m.
IBEW Local 103 Hall, 256 Freeport St.

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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 17, May 15

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

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Dorchester, MA 02124

Message Line: 617-822-8178

www.ashmonthill.org

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



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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

Steve Datish from St. Mark's Area Main Street described a BikeFest that is being planned for Thursday, September 17, in Peabody Square by the Ashmont Grill. The model is an event that has been held at Redbones in Somerville. The fest would include food, music, a raffle, and possibly kid-friendly activities, for cyclists from Dorchester and beyond, as well as neighbors. It would be a gated event, with controlled access to the event space. Permits for food service and entertainment would be required; SMAMS will be looking for a letter of support from AHA in a couple of months once plans have been firmed up.

Neighbor Earl Taylor, who is president of the Dorchester Historical Society, summarized a presentation he attended by Eden's, the owner of the South Bay Shopping Center, about their plan for a mixed-use development on a 10-12 acre site between the shopping center and Boston Street (where DHS headquarters is located). The plan draws on a development concept that came out of the Citizens Connect to South Bay charrette two years ago. The proposed project includes 500 rental units, a mix of commercial uses including restaurants, retail, a hotel, a 12-screen theater, and parking garages. Buildings could be as high as six stories. There would be no "big box" stores; the scale would be more like Derby Street Shops, with some locally owned businesses. The street pattern would discourage people from driving on residential streets. Construction could start in April 2016.

Jenny Silverman encouraged people to shop at the Winter Farmers' Market, now in its fourth season; the bad weather has led to several cancellations because of parking problems for the vendors as well as shoppers, so it isn't possible to assess whether the change from Sunday to Friday generated more business. Three farmers participate

along with Red's Best Seafood, a prepared food vendor, and vendors selling meat and cheese, spices and chutneys, and baked goods. The market is open through March 27.

John FitzGerald, Director of Olympic Operations for the City of Boston, framed his presentation as an introductory meeting at the beginning of the planning process for Boston's Olympic bid, saying the plan is still being formed and he was looking for feedback and concerns. He spoke about the Mayor's goals for housing, transportation, and education, and the idea of having the Olympics serve as a launching point for these goals. Q: How would the Olympics improve those things? There is no Olympics education plan now, but youth development and sports and exposure to other countries and cultures could be touchstones. Mayor's intent is that no tax dollars will pay for anything other than infrastructure improvements that we would do anyway. Deadlines are useful; money would not come out of education; the plans would unlock the potential of a number of areas. Q: How can we be sure development will be equitable? A city-wide master plan will soon be unveiled; there hasn't been one since 1965. Comment: there should be a neighborhood impact plan for each neighborhood. Impact on tourism? Would look at Democratic National Convention data. Q: What about retail; other Olympics have not benefited local businesses as a whole. The whole city would be the Olympic Park so people wouldn't be confined. Q: Timeframe? 28 days, mid-July to mid-August, including Paralympics. Q: Huge security concern and cost. Federal government would pay for and manage. Q: What if there's an economic downturn? Olympics could act as a cushion. Other questions: why should we spend money on this at all? What are the Dorchester venues? Lots of information at www.boston2024.org. John can be reached at 617-918-4267

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The way city living should be



About the Neighborhood

DHS Programs

Eoin Cannon, aide to Mayor Marty Walsh and author of *The Saloon and the Mission*, will talk about “Urban Religion and the Origins of Addiction Recovery” at the Dorchester Historical Society, on Sunday, March 22, at 2 p.m. Tales of surviving the depths of addiction are among the most popular stories in American culture today; story-telling also plays an important role in recovery practices. When did Americans start telling recovery stories, and why? Come find out. At DHS headquarters, 195 Boston Street; open to the public and free of charge.

DHS board member Andrew Saxe will give an updated talk, “Hidden Treasures of Dorchester: Architecture of the Railroad Suburb,” on Sunday, April 19, at 2 p.m., at the Carpenters Center, 750 Dorchester Avenue.

ADSL News

Fundraiser: Tickets are still available for the All Dorchester Sports League’s “Cold Night, Hot Stove” fundraiser on Friday, March 27, 7 - 11 p.m., at the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 4, 50 Park Street. Enjoy disco dancing, great food and drink. A \$20 ticket includes a raffle ticket for the major prizes: a flat-screen TV, iPad, and two Red Sox tickets. Buy tickets for other raffle items at the party. Tickets: www.alldorchestersports.org.

Spring Sports Registration: Registration is now open for ADSL baseball and softball for this summer. Register online at www.alldorchestersports.org or call 617-287-1601.

“Experience in the City”

Ted Landsmark, BRA board member and former president of the Boston Architectural College, will be at the Fairmount Innovation Lab, 584 Colum-

bia Road, on Saturday, March 28, 2:30 p.m. “Our beliefs and opinions of a place are shaped by how we experience it...sounds, shapes and intensities....” He will be discussing his ideas on what makes a good experience of the city of Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan in particular. Info: www.lab584.org.

Ashmont Hill Book Group

Book Group’s next meeting is on Wednesday, April 1, at 7:15 p.m., at 53 Alban Street, hosted by Leo Bray and David Mooney. We will be discussing *Heart of Palm* by Laura Lee Smith. Bring your suggestions for future books to the meeting. Book Group meets the first Wednesday of the month. All are welcome. Info: klil@hotmail.com or call the Message Line.

Save the Date: Early Music Concert April 25

Ashmont Hill Chamber Music presents “A Baroque Duo,” with violinist Robert Mealy and harpsichordist Avi Stein, on Saturday, April 25, 3 p.m., at All Saints Ashmont. Tickets are \$25/adult, \$18/student, and children 12 and under/free. Info: 617-680-7542 or www.ahchambermusic.org.

Ashmont Tire Update

Trinity Financial’s development project for the Ashmont Tire property (Ashmont TOD 2) received BRA approval on February 26 and Zoning Board of Appeal approval on March 10; this concludes the public permitting process for the project, which includes condos, rental units, and neighborhood retail. The next step is to obtain the necessary financing to build the project, which includes submitting applications to the City’s Department of Neighborhood Development and the Mass. Department of Housing and Community Development. If these agencies award the requested resources as anticipated, construction financing would close in December and construction would start in early 2016 and take

18 to 24 months. Trinity is working to schedule a community meeting in the near future; contact project manager Matt Zahler, 617-720-8400 x1543 or mzahler@trinityfinancial.com, to be added to Trinity’s email list to be sure to receive project updates and meeting notices.

Leaf & Yard Waste Collection

Leaf and yard waste for composting will be collected on regular trash days the weeks of April 13, April 27, May 11, and May 25. (Note the alternating week pattern, different from previous years.) Then there will be a monthly collection the weeks of June 15, July 13, August 10, September 14, and October 12. Fall collections will be every week, October 26–December 4. Place leaves and yard debris in large paper bags or open barrels labeled “yard waste;” tie branches (3’ max. length, 1” max. diameter). No plastic bags; no branches in barrels. Place at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular trash day. Leaf and yard waste placed curbside on non-collection days will not be collected. Info: www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/waste-reduction/yardwaste.asp.

Codman Square Library 690 Washington Street 617-436-8214

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

Monday & Thursday 12-8
Tuesday & Wednesday 10-6
Friday & Saturday 9-5

“Senior Smarts” technology program:
Wednesdays, April 22 - May 27,
11 a.m.-1 p.m.,

Art workshop for kids with Michele Brooks: Thursday, April 23, @ 6:30 p.m.

Preschool storytime: Tuesdays @ 11 a.m., Fridays @ 10:30 a.m.

Preschool films: Fridays @ 11a.m.

Baby storytime: Fridays @ 2 p.m.

All activities free and drop-in.

The way city living should be

Community Calendar

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ADSL “Cold Night, Hot Stove”

Friday, March 27, 7 - 11 p.m.
Intl. Union of Elevator Constructors,
50 Park St.

**“Experience in the City”
with Ted Landmark**

Saturday, March 28, 2:30 p.m.
Fairmount Innovation Lab,
584 Columbia Road

Ashmont Hill Book Group

Wednesday, April 1, 7:15 p.m.
53 Alban Street

**“Hidden Treasures of
Dorchester: Architecture
of the Railroad Suburb”**

Sunday, April 19, 2 p.m.
The Carpenters Center,
750 Dorchester Avenue

“A Baroque Duo” Concert

Saturday, April 25, 3 p.m.
All Saints Ashmont, 209 Ashmont Street

AHA Monthly Meeting

Thursday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.
Location TBA

Dorchester Chili Cook-off

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at the Cook-off help pay for the Dorchester Day Parade, which takes place this year on Sunday, June 2. So come have supper at the Cook-off and vote for AHA’s chili to support a worth cause. See you there!

— the AHA Chili Team

February Meeting Notes

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or john.fitzgerald@boston.gov. To join the mailing list, text your email address to 617-431-4100.

There was no C-11 report as Officer Keaney was unable to attend.

— Lianne Ames, notetaker

Planning Ahead

The 36th annual Ashmont Hill Yard Sale takes place on Saturday, May 16. Watch for all the details about how to participate in the next *Outlook*. Contact Joe Gildea, 617-288-6626 or cadman joe@aol.com, if you have questions in the meantime.

Amy & Tim: Awarded #1 for Total Revenue and Total Transactions for 2013, Gibson Sotheby's Realty Savin Hill - Dorchester's top selling sales office.



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