

ASHMONT OUTLOOK

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Spring? Not So Fast!

Thanks to Bob MacEachern for hosting last month's meeting and to all who attended.

The next AHA meeting is on Thursday, March 23, 7:30 p.m., at 60 Alban Street, hosted by Gary and Andrea Barsomian-Dietrich. On the agenda:

Kijana Rose, new executive director of the Martin Richard Foundation, on the mission of the foundation and the plans for service projects along Dorchester Avenue for OneBoston Day (April 15); a representative from the MA Department of Children and Families on the steps to becoming a foster parent; and Arnetta and Carl Baty on the Healthy Neighborhoods research project in which they are participating.

Ashmont Hill is partnering with Ashmont Valley and Peabody Slope on a "Slow Streets" application to the City. Information was previously posted on the Ashmont Hill listserv; email AshmontSlowStreets@gmail.com for more info. Neighbors can learn more at a community meeting on Thursday, March 16, 7 to 8 pm., at the Dorchester Y, 776 Washington Street. (See enclosed flyer and February Meeting Notes on page 2.) There will also be an update at the monthly meeting.

David H. Mooney
for the AHA Board



Bring your kids, your friends, and your neighbors to the 11th annual Dorchester Chili Cook-off, Sunday, March 26, 4 – 7 p.m., at IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street. Now a well-established Dorchester tradition, the Cook-off is a family-friendly event with live entertainment, games, face-painting, prizes, and more, not to mention a tasty way to have supper. Plus the Green Screen is returning, so you can picture yourself in an iconic Dorchester scene.

Contestants from every corner of our community will compete for bragging rights to the best chili in Dorchester. (Ashmont Hill has a new recipe this year that we're sure everyone will love!) A distinguished panel of judges will select winners in several categories: Best of Show, Best Non-Beef, Most Creative Dish, and Team Spirit (decorations, costumes, enthusiasm!). Vote for the People's Choice winner, where it is perfectly legal to buy votes.

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Ashmont Hill Association Monthly Meeting

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

60 Alban Street
hosted by Gary and Andrea
Barsomian-Dietrich
Supper at 7, desserts appreciated

Agenda:

Martin Richard Foundation
DCF Foster Parenting Information
Healthy Neighborhoods project
Slow Streets Application update
Announcements, New Business

Community Calendar

Winter Farmers Market

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

Free Hatha Yoga

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
April 11-May 30
Fields Corner Library

Slow Streets

Community Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 7 - 8 p.m.
Dorchester YMCA

"New Bostonians" Book Talk

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

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News and advertising deadlines:

April 14, May 12

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www.ashmonthill.org

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



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Dorchester Chili Cookoff

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All proceeds benefit the Dorchester Day Parade on June 4.

Tickets are available at the door: \$20/adult, \$30/family up to four, and \$5 for each additional child. See you there!

February Meeting Notes

C-11 Report: Officer Mike Keane noted that there were very few documented incidents in the last month, mostly property crimes: an attempted housebreak on Ashmont Street resulted in a damaged front door but nothing was taken; air freshener was stolen from a car on Ashmont; a front passenger window was smashed on Ocean Street but nothing was taken. It was noted that two other cars had windows smashed that same time; they were not reported so there was no record.

Warmer weather may bring an uptick, so as always keep cars locked and valuables out of sight. Spring also brings out motorbikes; call 911 to report problems with them: police will not pursue for safety reasons but if an address associated with bike activity is provided they will follow up.

1857 Dorchester Avenue development proposal: Steve Connelly and his attorney, Kevin Cloutier, described the development that Connelly Construction proposes to build on their property on Dot Ave: 20 rental units (four 1BR, 16 2BR, with three set aside for low-income tenants), plus two retail spaces that they plan to use for their offices. They have been in this location for 20 years; own and manage a number of properties. Project will require BPDA and ZBA approvals. Comments included concerns about the amount of parking provided (too much/too little), lack of active retail in the commercial spaces, blank wall facing the adjoining condos to the south. BPDA community process is underway; presentation to AHA was informational.

Slow Streets Application:

The Boston Transportation Department is accepting applications city-wide for Slow Streets projects that would address pedestrian, cycling, and auto safety on neighborhood streets. (Pilot project was carried out in the Norfolk Triangle area west of Codman Square.) Application process involves community input re; general concerns, obtaining support from elected officials and local businesses and institutions. Ashmont Hill, Ashmont Valley (Fuller/Bailey neighborhood) and Peabody Slope (from Mercier to Gallivan) have decided to apply jointly in order to address concerns more comprehensively. (Councilor Campbell noted that such collaboration is the kind of approach the City is looking for.) AHA Board member Sean Wheeler is taking the lead for the neighborhood in coordinating the application process. A joint community meeting will be held on March 16, 7-8 p.m., at the Dorchester Y. Application deadline is March 24.

Councilor Andrea Campbell: Noted that in her campaign she committed to reporting regularly to the district on her progress in carrying out her stated goals; her six-month report was issued in January. She also publishes a newsletter and sends out periodic (but not too many) emails. She can be reached at 617-635-3131 or andrea.campbell@boston.gov; don't hesitate to contact her to receive these communications or if there is any way in which her office can be of assistance. Eli Pimentel from the Councilor's staff reported that there will be a meeting on March 1 re: DND's parcels at Washington and Euclid.

Rep. Russell Holmes: Discussed corrections issues; how to reduce recidivism, providing education and other programs for incarcerated individuals rather than solving problems on exit rather than anticipating; also providing housing. He also discussed mandatory minimums; said small number entering

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The way city living should be



About the Neighborhood

Yard Sale Countdown

Ashmont Hill Yard Sale #38 is on Saturday, May 20. Contact Joe Gildea at cadmanjoe@aol.com or 617-288-6626 if you want to sign up early or have questions. Look for more details next month.

Ann Miller

Former long-time neighbor Ann Miller died on March 5. Ann and her late husband, Don, moved to Harley Street in 1977 and were enthusiastic supporters of the neighborhood throughout their years on the Hill. They relocated to a senior living community in 2013. The service for Ann will be at All Saints' Church on Saturday, March 18, at 10:30 a.m.

Coattails and Cocktails

Tickets are still be available for Greater Ashmont Main Street's gala fundraiser on Sunday, March 19, 7 - 10 p.m. at Tavolo Ristorante. It's a fabulous evening with Tavolo's dinner-by-the-bite, passed champagne (cash bar for other cocktails), jazz, silent auction, and a photo booth so you can document your "creative black tie optional" attire. And Ashmont Hill neighbor Milo Stella is the MC! 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/ or pay by phone with credit card at 617-825-3846 during business hours. It has sold out in the past, so don't hesitate!

Dorchester Historical Society Programs

New Bostonians: On Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m., the Dorchester Historical Society welcomes Marilyn Johnson, Professor of History at Boston College, who will discuss 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.

"Building A People's History of Dorchester:" Sustaining our communities and supporting active citizenship requires that we understand and share our histories. On Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to noon, the Dorchester History Initiative invites Dorchester residents for a conversation about what histories they would like to know about and explore. Coffee and refreshments will be served. The Dorchester History Initiative is a collaboration of DHS, the City Archivist, the UMass Boston History Department (Public History Track), and the University Archives and Special Collections, Healey Library.

Characters from The Old Overholt: On Sunday, April 23, at 2 p.m., author and Dorchester native Michaela Casey will talk about the development of her characters, based on Dorchester models, in her new book, *The Old Overholt and Other Stories*, which was inspired by her father, the late Thomas Casey (1914-2009), a long-time Dorchester civic and parish leader.

All three programs take place at DHS Headquarters, 195 Boston Street. They are open to public and free of charge.

Ashmont Hill Book Group

Book Group's next meeting is on Wednesday, April 5, 7:15 p.m., at 22 Harley Street, hosted by Lil Konowitz. The book for April 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.

Ashmont Hill Chamber Music Concert

Haitian-American violinist, composer and performer Daniel Bernard Roumain ("DBR"), a rising star in the music world, will perform "Redemption Song & Sonatas," which he describes

as "a musician's view on civil rights around the world," on April 23, at 4:30 pm. Project STEP students will also perform one of DBR's compositions, likely his Rosa Parks Quartet. The concert takes place in Peabody Hall at All Saints Church, 209 Ashmont Street. Purchase tickets, \$25, at www.ahchambermusic.org or at the door.

All Dorchester Sports League News

Spring/Summer Sports: ADSL registration is now open for spring and summer programs, which include include baseball, softball, basketball, and volleyball. Go to alldorchester.org/sports/programs for registration for, prices, and start dates.

"Cold Night/Hot Stove:" ADSL's annual fundraiser is on Friday, March 24, 7 - 11 p.m., at First Parish Dorchester, 10 Parish Street. Enjoy a live band, dance lessons, food, cash bar for wine and beer, and a raffle that features Tom Brady's signed UGG! Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door; purchase at www.alldorchester.org/sports or mail checks, payable to ADSL/CNHS, to ADSL, 1565 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02122 by March 17.

Family Fun Day Vendor Opportunity: The fourth annual Family Fun Day, organized by ADSL and Propa City, takes place on Saturday, May 20, at Town Field. Organizations, businesses, services, and community resources are welcome to participate as vendors. Contact Stephanie Crawford at scrawford@alldorchester.org for details.

Propa City Community Outreach

Propa City offers its programs at 1565 Dorchester Avenue (the ADSL building) 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.

The way city living should be

Community Calendar

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“Coattails & Cocktails”

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

ADSL’s “Cold Night/Hot Stove”

Friday, March 24, 7 - 11 p.m.
First Parish Dorchester

Dot Chili Cook-off

Sunday, March 26, 4 - 7 p.m.
IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street

Ashmont Hill Book Group

Wednesday, April 5, 7:15 p.m.
22 Harley Street

“Building a People’s History” Conversation

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. - noon
Dorchester Historical Society,
195 Boston St.

“Characters from The Old Overholt”

Sunday, April 23, 2 p.m.
Dorchester Historical Society,
195 Boston St.

Ashmont Hill Chamber Music:

“DBR” Concert

Sunday, April 23, 4:30 p.m.
Peabody Hall, All Saints Church

AHA Monthly Meeting

Thursday, April 27, 7:20 p.m.

Ashmont Hill Yard Sale (!)

Saturday, May 20

February Meeting Notes

Continued from page 2

system with mandatory minimums but many others pled down. Also concerned with bail reform: people being locked up extensively because they can’t make bail; we are often spending more to keep them in than the amount of the bail. MA has the second lowest incarceration rate nationwide.

— Leo Bray, note taker

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