

ASHMONT OUTLOOK

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

Is It Spring Yet?

There was a great turnout for the January meeting at the Rugos' house, with lots of lively discussion and lots of delicious desserts. Keep up the good work, everyone!

February's AHA meeting is on Thursday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m., at 52 Welles Avenue, hosted by Lex Stevens and David Stitt. Light supper at 7 as always. We don't have a guest speaker, but we hope to provide updates on a number of development projects and other upcoming activities. Come enjoy supper and sociability, and we'll talk about whatever is on people's minds relating to the neighborhood.

Dicki Rugo

on behalf of the Ashmont Hill Association Board

News Flash! Checkers, chess, Chutes & Ladders anyone? The Dorchester YMCA (776 Washington Street) is hosting a monthly Family Board Games afternoon the third Sunday of the month, beginning this coming Sunday, February 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. Neighbors 6 years old and up are invited to play board games...but no computer games allowed. Bring snacks if you wish; games will be provided, or bring your own if you prefer. What a nice way to spend some relaxing, non-electronic time with your family and your neighbors!



Bring your kids, your friends, and your neighbors to the 10th annual Dorchester Chili Cook-off, on Sunday, March 13, 4 – 7 p.m., at IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street. Now a well-established Dorchester tradition, the Cook-off is fun for all ages, with live entertainment, children's activities, raffles, and games.

More than two dozen contestants from every corner of our community will compete for bragging rights to the best chili in Dorchester. As is our tradition, Ashmont Hill's entry will be a very tasty vegetarian chili, often the only one offered. A distinguished panel of judges will select Best of Show, Best Non-Beef, Most Creative Dish and Team Spirit. Even more hotly contested is the People's Choice Award, where there's no limit to the number of votes that can be bought.

Cook-off tickets, available at the door, are \$20/adult, \$30/family up to four, and \$5 for each additional child. Funds raised at the Cook-off help pay for the Dorchester Day Parade, which takes place this year on Sunday, June 5. The IBEW is just up the street from Yale Electric, and there's plenty of parking. See you there!

Ashmont Hill Association Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 25,
7:30 p.m.

52 Welles Avenue

hosted by

Lex Stevens & David Stitt

Supper at 7, desserts appreciated

Community Calendar

Winter Farmers Market

Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
through March 19
Great Hall, Codman Square

Free Hatha Yoga

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
March 1, 8, 15
Fields Corner Library

"The Black Community in Colonial Dorchester"

Sunday, February 21, 2 p.m.
Dorchester Historical Society,
195 Boston Street

Massachusetts Presidential Primary

Tuesday, March 1
Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Ashmont Hill Book Group

Wednesday, March 2, 7:15 p.m.
53 Alban Street

Dorchester Chili Cook-off

Sunday, March 13, 4 - 7 p.m.
IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street

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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:

March 18, April 15

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

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Ashmont Hill Association

P.O. Box 240217

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.



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

January Meeting Notes

C-11 Community Service Officer Michael Keaney reported that 140 kids from needy families attended C-11's Christmas party. Female students from TechBoston were in a fight at Ashmont and Ocean on January 15 and were disciplined according to school policies. Re: the homicide on Washington Street on January 27, Officer Keaney explained that much information must be withheld during an active investigation unless a specific suspect is being sought. C-11 is offering RAD (Rape, Assault, Defense) classes; contact Dario at 617-343-5315. Officer Keaney can be reached 617-343-4524 with questions or concerns.

Andrea Campbell, our new District 4 City Councilor, introduced Caroline Kimball-Katz, who will attend our meetings in Andrea's absence, and Elizabeth (Eli) Pimentel, her new constituent services director. Andrea will be publishing a newsletter, opening a satellite office, and revamping her website. She has been meeting with department heads and commissioners as well as their staffs, attending civic association meetings, and plans to hold meetings of heads of civic associations to talk about common concerns. She was appointed chair of the City Council's Committee on Public Safety and Justice. She is working to get the Community Preservation Act on the ballot, becoming familiar with the City budget, identifying capital projects for the mayor, and planning to visit schools and senior residences in the district. Contact Andrea with concerns and she will respond in 24-48 hours; 617-635-3131 or andrea.campbell@boston.gov.

Vicki Rugo gave an update on the Roberts Park play area improvements. The City has budgeted \$800,000 for the play area items, and through the efforts of Rep. Russell Holmes, an additional \$400,000 has been obtained for upgrades to the basketball courts, lighting, walkways and signage. Construction to start this summer. The updated plans from landscape archi-

tects CBA Landscape Architects were presented at a community meeting on January 25, and will be posted to the listserve.

David Mooney reported on a discussion at the bi-monthly Ashmont Station Master meeting about the possibility of a public toilet structure being installed in the vicinity of the station. The proposed location is the north plaza. Neighbors felt that the north plaza was not acceptable, as it is heavily used by the Farmers' Market and other activities. It was also noted that significant maintenance and repair problems have been reported, so that the facilities are often unavailable. The south end of the station was suggested as an alternative. It was also pointed out that restroom facilities inside Ashmont Station are intended for use by the public, but they are unmarked and are only for T customers. They should be identified and made more available. Neighbors are encouraged to contact Peter O'Sullivan, who manages the Street Furniture program, with comments: Peter.O'Sullivan@cityofboston.gov.

Pat Burson reported on a public safety meeting for parents at TechBoston, organized by school administrators with Boston and Transit police in attendance, to describe how to keep kids safe as they walk through certain neighborhoods. Students are told how to avoid attracting gang attention; street workers also get to know kids before they get involved in problematic behavior. Harley Street neighbor Jessica Descartes, who is the Dean of Discipline at TechBoston and is now the school's liaison to the Ashmont Hill Association, encouraged neighbors to call her at 617-839-9256 with concerns.

Ashmont Hill neighbors made up three teams in a community bowling tournament organized by Ashmont Adams neighbor Judy Raup to raise funds for Parkinson's Disease research. The "Welles Swells" received a trophy for the highest score, and the honor of Ashmont Hill was upheld.

—Lianne Ames, note taker

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About the Neighborhood

Winter Farmers Market Continues

Shop for locally grown produce, bread and baked goods, handmade crafts, and more at the Dorchester Winter Farmers Market, every Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., through March 19, at the Great Hall in Codman Square. Visit the Market at www.facebook.com/DorchesterWinterFarmersMarket/ for updates on special events and guest vendors.

Ashmont Hill Book Group

The next Book Group meeting is Wednesday, March 2, 7:15 p.m., at 53 Alban Street, hosted by David Mooney and Leo Bray. We'll be talking about *Making the Mummies Dance: Inside the Metropolitan Museum of Art*, by Thomas Hoving. The book for April is *Emma* by Jane Austen. Book Group meets the first Wednesday of the month; all are welcome. Info: klil@hotmail.com or call the Message Line.

Dorchester Historical Society Programs

The Black Community in Colonial

Dorchester: On Sunday, February 21, at 2 p.m., local historian Alex Goldfeld will talk about the black community of Colonial Dorchester and Boston, exploring what is known about Sebastian Kane, Dorchester's first black landowner, and other people of African descent in a predominantly white colony.

The Fortification of Dorchester

Heights: On March 4, 1776, Brigadier General Thomas was ordered to take command of 2,100 men, proceed to Dorchester Point, and erect fortifications "most proper for the defense of the ground and annoyance of the enemy and defend the same." On Sunday, March 20, at 2 p.m., learn how the

British were forced to leave Boston later that month, without a shot being fired.

DHS programs are free and open to the public, and takes place at DHS Headquarters, 195 Boston Street.

Imagine Boston 2030 Community Workshops

Announced last summer, Imagine Boston 2030 is Boston's first city-wide planning effort in 50 years. A series of workshops will provide an opportunity for people to share ideas, get involved, and learn more about the process.

Workshops in Dorchester are:

Monday, March 14, 6-8 p.m. at VietAid, 42 Charles Street in Fields Corner

Monday, March 21, 6-8 p.m. at St. Peter's School, 278 Bowdoin Street

Tuesday, March 22, 6-8 p.m. at the Murphy School, 1 Worrell Street

Info: <http://imagine.boston.gov>.

AHCM Piano Recital

Ashmont Hill Chamber Music presents pianist George Li, silver medalist in the 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition and currently a student at Harvard, in a recital on Sunday, April 3, at 3 p.m., in Peabody Hall at All Saints Church, 209 Ashmont Street. The program will include works by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, and Liszt. Tickets are \$25/adult, \$18/student, and 12 and under/free; to purchase, call 617-827-7857, go to alchambermusic.org, or pay at the door.

Coattails & Cocktails 2016

Celebrate St. Mark's Area Main Street's 16 years of organizing and support of our Dorchester Avenue business district on Sunday, April 3, 7 - 11 p.m., at Tavolo Ristorante. SMAMS' biggest fundraiser of the year features cocktail music, a photo booth to document your "creative black tie optional" elegance, Tavolo's tasty offerings with passed champagne and cash bar, and a silent auction. Father Dan Finn, former

pastor at St. Mark Church, will be recognized for his vision and dedication 17 years ago in championing the neighborhood as a Main Street district. PLUS the organization's new name and logo will be revealed for the first time.

Tickets are \$75 before April 1, at smams.org, by mail to SMAMS, 1914 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester 02124, or \$90 at the door if available. Info: office@smams.org or 617-825-3846. A limited number of reduced-rate tickets may be available.

SMAMS Committees

Neighbors are encouraged to participate in SMAMS' committee meetings, held in the SMAMS office, 1914 Dorchester Ave.

Fundraising & Events: Wednesday, March 9 and March 24, 6:30 p.m.

Development & Historic Preservation: Friday, March 11, 8 a.m.

Beautification & Public Spaces: Tuesday, March 22, 6:30 p.m.

Cold Night/Hot Stove '16

The All Dorchester Sports League invites everyone to "heat up with disco fever" at their annual fundraiser on Saturday, April 2, 7 - 11 p.m., at the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 4, 50 Park Street. Enjoy raffles, games, auction, cash bar, and music. Tickets available at the door or at www.alldorchestersports.org or call 617-287-1601.

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Community Calendar

Continued from page 1

**Imagine Boston 2030
Community Workshops**

Monday, March 14, 6 - 8 p.m.
VietAid, 42 Charles Street, Fields Corner
Monday, March 21, 6 - 8 p.m.
St. Peter's School, 278 Bowdoin Street
Tuesday, March 22, 6 - 8 p.m.
Murphy School, 1 Worrell Street

**"The Fortification
of Dorchester Heights"**

Sunday, March 20, 2 p.m.
Dorchester Historical Society,
195 Boston Street

**Ashmont Hill Association
Monthly Meeting**

Thursday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.
Location TBA

**ADSL Cold Night/Hot Stove
Fundraiser**

Saturday, April 2, 7 - 11 p.m.
Union of Elevator Constructors,
50 Park Street

George Li Piano Recital

Sunday, April 3, 3 p.m.
Peabody Hall, All Saints Church

SMAMS "Coattails & Cocktails"

Sunday, April 3, 7 - 11 p.m.
Tavolo Ristorante,
1918 Dorchester Avenue

Recycling Wheelchairs

Do you have a wheelchair, walker, or crutches that you no longer use? The Boston Wheelchair Alliance, established by Ashmont Street neighbor Michael Woernle, who is a Registered Nurse at New England Baptist Hospital, will pick them up at your door and donate them to individuals in Africa with special needs. Broken equipment is welcome; it can be repaired. So don't let a wheelchair gather dust in the attic: your generosity can change a life. Info/to arrange for pick-up, please call 617-480-6461.



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