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Fall is Here!

Thanks so much to Joe and Nancy Gildea for hosting the well-attended September meeting.

The next AHA meeting is on Thursday, October 27, 7:30 p.m., at 52 Welles Avenue, hosted by Lex Stevens and David Stitt. This is AHA's General Meeting, at which board elections will take place; we will also have a couple of brief reports about the past year. Nominations to the AHA Board were opened in September; anyone interested in joining the Board is welcome to add their name at the October meeting.

Also on the October agenda: Lt. Ken Berg, the new Night Commander for the Transit Police; Emily Bryan, principal of the Thomas J. Kenny School; Carl and Arnetta Baty from the Friends of the Codman Square Library; and a representative from the Yes For A Better Boston campaign on ballot question 5. Plus the usual C-11 monthly report, new issues, and announcements.

Halloween is always lively on Ashmont Hill. Some neighbors decorate their houses for the occasion; several hundred small ghosts, princesses, ninjas, and their parents will probably be in the neighborhood. If you aren't participating, or when you run out of candy, you might want to turn off your porch light as a sign for people not to ring your door bell. But remember to (continued on page 4)



Dorchester Open Studios 2016

Dozens of Dorchester artists will exhibit and sell their work on Saturday and Sunday, October 22 and 23, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. both days, at the 13th annual Dorchester Open Studios. Venues include the Erick Jean Center for the Arts, 157 Washington Street; First Parish Church, 10 Parish Street; The Boston Home, 2049 Dorchester Avenue; Pearl Street Studios, 11 Pearl Street; and several private studios. Pick up a Dorchester Reporter supplement with all the details at any of the exhibit locations. An opening reception will be held on Friday, October 21, 7 - 10 p.m. at the Erick Jean Center; tickets are \$20 and available at dorchesterartscollaborative.org. Closing reception takes place at Levi's, 323 Washington Street, from 7 to 10 on Sunday evening.

American Voice in Poetry & Song

On Sunday, October 30, at 3 p.m., Convergence Ensemble presents baritone Robert Honeysucker, literary performer Regie Gibson, and pianist Rachel Goodwin in a collaboration, *(continued on page 3)*

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Ashmont Hill Association Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.

52 Welles Avenue, hosted by Lex Stevens and David Stitt Light supper at 7, desserts appreciated

Agenda: Lt. Ken Berg, Transit Police Emily Bryan, Kenny School Friends of the Codman Square Library Yes For A Better Boston

Community Calendar

Dorchester Open Studios

Saturday/Sunday, October 22/23 12 noon - 5 p.m. Various locations

Free Hatha Yoga

Tuesday, Oct. 25; Nov. 15, 22, 29 6:30 - 8 p.m. Fields Corner Library

Peabody Square Monthly Care Saturday, October 29, 10 a.m. Plaza by Ashmont Grill

American Voice/Poetry & Song Sunday, October 30, 3 p.m. Peabody Hall, All Saints Church

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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:

November 11

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

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September Meeting Notes

Officer Mike Keaney from District C-11 reported that it was a quiet summer, with crime down 11% overall and down 6-7% for major crimes. He attributes it to good police work and good communication with community groups. Incidents: Johnny's Pizza customer argued with an employee, shattered the door, and tried to take his money back by force; arrested for unarmed robbery and vandalism. Two teens seen stealing packages from Walton Street porches were stopped at Welles and Harley, with stolen boxes on them; charged with larceny. A car with a broken tail light was stopped for speeding on Talbot Avenue; driver had no license, car had no insurance, driver was arrested. Officer Keaney will have officers look into possible illegal car repairs and illegally parked cars on Walton Street. Follow-up discussion about girls fighting on Ashmont Street the previous week; Davio, the school liaison for C-11, is working on it.

Pat Burson reported on the September C-11 Advisory Council meeting with Captain Connolly, which focused on opioid addiction and prevention. Police are trying to work with those battling addiction, not to arrest but to intervene. The drug control unit is aware of the areas to watch for dealing. Much heroin is now cut with fentanyl, which can be deadly. Signs of overdose? Person is not in control of their body, loud noises won't wake them: call 911. Call 311 to have syringes picked up. Turn in unused prescription drugs at C-11 or any police station or health center.

AHA has been asked to join with other Peabody Square neighborhood groups to help maintain the new planters and adjacent planting beds. It was agreed that AHA will take fourth Saturday of the month, meeting at 10 a.m. by the Ashmont Grill.

Nominations for the Board were opened. Current members will renew, other people may be considering.

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Eli Pimentel from Councilor Campbell's office reported that a meeting was being held regarding unlawful credit checks relating to employment; City Council discussed the City's role in the annual Caribbean Carnival; Cheryl Harding has joined the staff as Senior Advisor.

Joe Gildea showed the plans for their carriage house, which they intend to convert to a single-family house; they are not dividing the property. The AHA membership present voted unanimously to support Joe's request for the necessary variances with the Board of Appeals. (The Board of Appeal approved the requested variances the following week.)

David Cotter from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services reported that 311 will connect with recovery services for addiction. Early voting will be available for the upcoming election. A program to grade restaurants (A, B, C, or fail), is being implemented, which should help improve service.

-Lianne Ames, notetaker

Check/Postal Fraud Alert

A number of residents from neighborhoods around Peabody Square, including Ashmont Hill, have had checks that they mailed in blue Postal Service boxes stolen and fraudulently deposited/cashed at a variety of banks around Boston. District C-11 has been notified of these incidents; Captain Connolly advises anyone who has experienced this to contact the USPS Boston Postal Inspector at 617-603-6100 and to send an email to C-11's Detective Commander, Thomas Hopkins, at thomas.hopkins@pd.boston .gov. Several of the banks are already working on tracking down the fraud and refunding money. The police think the technique used involves "fishing" in a mailbox using something sticky on a string.

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About the Neighborhood *Continued from page 1*

bringing together two different artistic disciplines. Goodwin and Honeysucker will perform a selection of America spirituals and Art Songs by composers including Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber and African-American composers from the Chicago Renaissance. Gibson will weave poems (by Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, e.e. cummings, and others) and commentary throughout the program, shedding light on the past and bringing the works into the present. The program takes place in Peabody Hall at All Saints Church; admission is free.

Peabody Square Care

The new planters in Peabody Square, in the plaza by the Ashmont Grill and in the Clock Park, were installed through the efforts of Greater Ashmont Main Street to reclaim and beautify these pedestrian spaces. The neighborhood groups around the Square have agreed to help with the maintenance of the planters and nearby planting beds; each group is taking one Saturday a month to weed, pick up litter, and water as needed, to keep these spaces looking their best throughout the year. At the September AHA meeting, it was decided that AHA would cover the fourth Saturday of each month. Our first workday will be Saturday, October 29; we'll meet in front of the Ashmont Grill at 10 a.m. If you can spare an hour, please come help; bring work gloves if you have them, everything else will be provided.

Main Street Fall Public Meeting

Greater Ashmont Main Street invites neighbors to their Fall Public Meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 - 8 p.m., at Epiphany School, 154 Centre Street, adjacent to the Shawmut T station. (There is also parking at the school.) Enjoy a light supper provided by a local business, then learn about the work Main Street is doing from the executive director and each of the committees: Beautification & Public Spaces; Business Support & Recruitment; Development & Historic Preservation; and Fundraising & Events. Arjun Sarma, Master's candidate at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design who was a Summer Fellow with Greater Ashmont MS, will present the comprehensive analysis he prepared of the district's current business mix, along with a set of recommendations for paths forward to strengthen and diversify the offerings of the district. Printed copies of his report will be available at the meeting, electronic copies afterward. Also available: Main Street t-shirts, water bottles, stickers, and Main Street membership forms.

Ashmont Hill Book Group

Book Group's next meeting is on Wednesday, November 2, 7:15 p.m., at 52 Alban Street, hosted by Deb Rodman. We will be talking about *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. The book for December is the Western classic, *The Virginian*, by Owen Wister.

A Program of Art Songs

On Sunday, November 6, at 4 p.m., Ashmont Hill Chamber Music presents mezzo soprano Krista River, tenor Eric Christopher Perry, and accompanist Christopher Walter performing songs by Britten, Brahms, Schubert, and Noel Coward. The soloists will be joined for one piece by the Tour Choir of Boston City Singers, marking AHCM's new partnership with this Dorchesterbased organization for singers ages 4 -18. The concert takes place in Peabody Hall at All Saints Church; a reception follows. Tickets, \$25, at ahchambermusic.org or at the door.

Hidden Heroes and Sheroes

The Codman Square Neighborhood Council and Greater Four Corners Action Coalition will honor community members who have had a positive impact at their annual "Hidden Heroes

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and Sheroes" celebration on Friday, November 18, 6 - 8:15 p.m., at the Great Hall, 6 Norfolk Street. Former mayor Ray Flynn will also be honored. Tickets, \$30, help fund two \$1,500 scholarships for youth leaders in the community. Tickets/info: Rev. Dr. Bill Loesch, bill.loesch1@gmail.com.



Joseph Wheelwright

Long-time Ashmont Hill neighbor and noted sculptor Joe Wheelwright died on September 28 after a determined but peaceful struggle with cancer. Joe worked in wood and stone, in very small and very large scales, and he was fascinated by the moon from childhood. His best-known public art is the "Sleeping Moon," right here in his neighborhood on Ashmont Station Plaza, which was installed in 2010. The Moon was shrouded for ten days to mark Joe's passing, and was uncovered on Saturday, October 15, at an informal memorial gathering of friends and neighbors on the Plaza; a memorial service will be held in Boston later, with details posted at joewheelwright.com.

Thanksgiving Turkeys

The United Way and the Dorchester YMCA are sponsoring a Thanksgiving turkey distribution for those in need. Applications are available at the Dorchester Y, 776 Washington Street, just south of Ashmont Street; first come, first served while supplies last.



Community Calendar Continued from page 1

> **Greater Ashmont Main Street Fall Public Meeting** Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Epiphany School, 154 Centre Street

Ashmont Hill Book Group Wednesday, November 2, 7:15 p.m. 52 Alban Street

> **Program of Art Songs** Sunday, November 4, 4 p.m. Peabody Hall, All Saints Church

Hidden Heroes & Sheroes Friday, November 18, 6 - 8:15 p.m. Great Hall, Codman Square

Save the Date: **Peabody Square Tree Lighting** Saturday, November 26

Ashmont Hill Holiday Party A Saturday evening in December TBA

Fall is Here

Continued from page 1 turn the light back on later in the evening. We encourage everyone to have their porch lights on from dusk to dawn: they provide light to pedestrians walking by and show that this is a neighborhood where people pay attention to what's going on.

Happy Halloween to all! Dicki Rugo

for the AHA Board

Fall Leaf/Yard Waste Collection

The collection will run from October 24 through December 2, with pickups on regular trash/recycling days; no yard waste will be collected with trash during this period. Place leaves and yard debris in large paper leaf bags or open barrels labeled "yard waste" (no plastic bags). Tie branches with string, 3' maximum length. Do not put branches in barrels. Put barrels, bags and branches at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular trash/recycling day. Call 3-1-1 if your bags and barrels have been missed.

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

Baby storytime: Tues., 11 a.m.; Friday 2 p.m. Lego Club: Tuesday, 2 p.m. School kid's book club: Thursday, 4 p.m. Preschool storytime: Friday, 10:30 a.m. Preschool films: Friday, 11 a.m. All activities free and drop-in.



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