

MARCH 2014
EDITION



Dates To Remember:

Mar 26, 2014
Spring General Meeting

May 3, 2014
The Sounds of Music –
House Concert Series
“New Country”

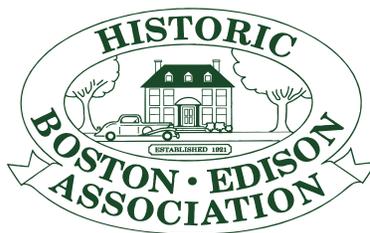
May 10, 2014
Historic Boston–Edison
Home Preservation Fair

May 24, 2014
HBEA Annual Meeting



Volunteers
Needed:

To assist with any of our
upcoming events:
> 313.883.4360 x 2
bostonedison@gmail.com



2014 HBEA SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 26th, 2014

7:00 to 9:00pm

Check-in begins at 6:30

Sacred Heart Major Seminary

*Linwood at Chicago Boulevard – Enter thru the
guard gates on Linwood, Detroit, MI 48206*



**All Boston-Edison Residents are welcome and
encouraged to attend.**

Come, meet, share and learn. Take part in important, informative
discussions that may help set the course for our community; now, next
year and beyond.

Guest Speakers

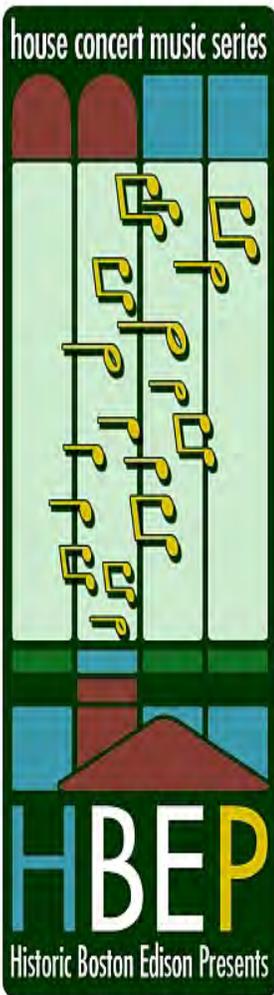
Michigan State Representative *John Olumba*

City Councilperson *Mary Sheffield*

DPD 10th Precinct, Commanding Officer *Captain Rodney Cox*

Your representatives will share information and field questions about
our community and the future.

Join us for Refreshments and Door Prizes



WANTED

Contractor suggestions for the Boston-Edison Home Preservation Fair in the spring on May 10th.

If you were pleased with work that was done on your home, and would recommend that contractor to neighbors, please email bostonedison@gmail.com or call Pat Elazier at (313) 802-3769. We will be happy to contact them!

The Fourth Annual "Sounds of Music" House Concert Series

After one of the longest, toughest winters on record, we are certainly looking forward to warmer temperatures and good times. One of the more recent annual Boston-Edison traditions is our House Concert Series entitled "The Sounds of Music". For the past three years, we have presented a wide variety of high-level musicians performing in the beautiful homes of our neighborhood, as well as talented youth in a Children's Concert at the Blessed Sacrament Community Center. The music has included jazz, soul, classical, big band jazz, Latin jazz, folk, flamenco and blues. Patrons have attended from within the neighborhood, the metro Detroit area, Canada and even a few attendees who were vacationing from overseas. The atmosphere is fun, intimate and there is always great food and drink. We'd like to see YOU at this year's fourth annual series!

- ◆ May 3, we will welcome spring and the fresh New Country sounds of singer-songwriter Julianne Anklely (www.julianneankley.com).
- ◆ August 9 will feature a summer jazz party with the Demetrius Nabors Trio (www.dknmusic.com).
- ◆ June 28 will be our Children's Concert with young jazz piano prodigy Brendon Davis.
- ◆ October 4, we will close out the series with classical music from world-renowned flutist (and Detroit native) Eric Lamb (www.fluteaddict.weebly.com).

Tickets are \$40 per concert or \$35 per concert if you are purchasing the May 3, August 9 and October 4 concerts together. The Children's Concert tickets are \$12 per person (children under 5 are free). Tickets are by advanced sale only except for the Children's Concert, where tickets can be purchased in advance and at the door. Home addresses will be provided with ticket purchase. All concerts start at 7:30 p.m.; the Children's Concert is from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with punch and cookies served.

We are sending out a call for interested advertisers or sponsors! Your ad and/or sponsorship will be acknowledged during the concert, in our music concert program booklet, on our webpage and in our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter). Our rates are affordable and you can earn FREE TICKETS to the concerts!

For complete information about the concert series, including the artists' biographies, advertising/sponsorship contract and for purchasing tickets, please see this link at our website:

<http://www.historicbostonedison.org/calendar/concert.shtml> or contact: Michelle May, Music Director, NuPwr319@aol.com, 313-865-1149.

2014 Home Preservation Fair

Save the Date!

Once again, we will host our Home Preservation Fair. The event offers owners of older homes and historic homes an opportunity to meet and discuss their repair/preservation needs with pre-screened contractors and home repair specialists. Workshops, homeowner resources and much more!

Saturday, May 10, 2014

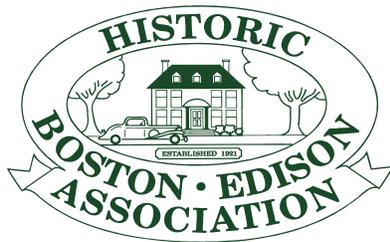
Noon — 5 PM

Sacred Heart Seminary

The Fair is FREE and OPEN to the public.

For more information, www.historicbostonedison.org

Upcoming Elections to the HBEA Board of Directors



The business of the Historic Boston-Edison Association is conducted by a Board of Directors who are elected by the members of the Association. The Board consists of 15 Directors: five each from Zone A (Woodward-Hamilton), Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks), and Zone C (Rosa Parks-Linwood). In each zone, one director is elected from each street (W. Boston, Chicago, Longfellow, and Edison) and the fifth is elected at large. Directors serve a term of three years.

There are seven Directorships to be filled by election at the upcoming Annual Meeting. All seats are OPEN to active dues paying members of HBEA.

- ◆ Zone A (Woodward-Hamilton) Edison
OPEN - Incumbent running (temp assignment) Patti Jernigan
- ◆ Zone A (Woodward-Hamilton) Longfellow
OPEN - Incumbent running (temp assignment) Larry Gaines
- ◆ Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks) Edison
OPEN
- ◆ Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks) Longfellow
OPEN
- ◆ Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks) Chicago
OPEN - Incumbent running Gracie Brown
- ◆ Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks) W. Boston
OPEN - Incumbent running Jerome Brown
- ◆ Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks) at-large
OPEN - Incumbent running Debbie Baldwin

Directors must be active dues-paying members of the Association. Persons wishing to run for any of the above open positions may submit a nominating petition with signatures from at least ten (10) dues-paying households to the Executive Secretary not later than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted. Submissions may be hand delivered or mailed to 140 Edison Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202.

NOMINATING PETITIONS AVAILABLE: To be considered for one of this year's OPEN Directorships, complete the blank Nominating Petition included as an insert with this month's newsletter.

A list of Active members as of March 1 is on the reverse of the petition insert. Please be sure to follow the instructions when submitting your petition!

Your vote counts at the upcoming Annual Meeting on May 24, 2014

If you cannot attend the Meeting, an absentee ballot can be completed by every dues paying household. This will be available on our website soon and will be included in the May newsletter!



Boston-Edison Security News

BE Neighborhood: a community that watches out for fellow neighbors.



DPD Police Officer returning flatscreen TV.

The following article was inspired by the email activity hosted on our "Alert: BE Security" - a Google Group for DSS Subscribers.

On Mar 4, 2014, there was a home invasion on the 1500 block of Longfellow. Entry was forced through a rear window. Luckily, a watchful neighbor saw someone carrying a flat screen TV down the alley between Longfellow and Chicago. He followed the man to a nearby home as he contacted our DSS Patrolman Jeff who was on duty.

The Detroit Police Department 911 was immediately called. DPD responded quickly because DSS made a verification call on the B&E and an arrest was made. DPD returned the TV to the homeowner who was able to prove item ownership.

But the story doesn't stop there: DPD is continuing to investigate, and further arrests may be made in conjunction to this deterred event thanks to one watchful neighbor who thought to call our neighborhood patrol.

No matter what you might hear about Detroit, this is a great example of one thing: **The system WORKS.** And it works even better when neighbors are watchful and involved.

- ◆ A neighbor noticed a suspicious person, was able to verify the B&E with DSS and serve as an eyewitness for the police.
- ◆ Our neighborhood patrolman Jeff was able to provide additional specific details. And the officers from the Tenth Precinct responded to the call with a full-court press, and continue to investigate.
- ◆ Be watchful. Be involved. Join the patrol. Call the police. Know your neighbors. And the whole neighborhood will be safer for it.

LIGHTS ON FOR SAFETY!



The Police say that lights are a great way to discourage crime.

Start Tonight!

Want real-time Security Alerts?

(A Security Google Group for DSS Subscribers)

Contact the Security Committee for information about joining Dusing Security and Surveillance.

(313) 883-4360 Security Mailbox 3

More subscribers = More hours of patrol



Did you know our Neighborhood has a volunteer Radio Patrol? APPLICATIONS for BERP (Boston-Edison Radio Patrol) can be downloaded from our web site.

<http://www.historicbostonedison.org/BERP-DPDapplication.pdf>

Historic District Commission News

By: James L. Hamilton, Historic District Commissioner

The staff of the Historic District Commission routinely approves most applications for exterior work in an historic district. For example, proposals to replace a roof or to repaint a house are easy to get approved, as long as the materials and colors are historically appropriate. The HDC has guidelines for what can be staff approved. See www.historicbostonedison.org/pres5.shtml.

If proposed work has some aspects that are not historically appropriate, these usually are corrected with the advice and help of staff. Usually, owners are glad to learn how to modify the work to do the right thing for properly preserving their historic homes. Indeed, some owners go to the HDC staff for initial advice on how to approach a project correctly. The staff is very knowledgeable and helpful.

Two kinds of applications do have to go to the Commission for a hearing.

Work that staff cannot approve requires a hearing. *For example*, a renovation project in one historic district involved an addition to the house. This goes beyond routine work that staff can approve. The project was carefully designed not to detract at all from the historic design of the house and did not destroy any historic material. HDC approved it at a hearing.

Work that staff thinks is not historically appropriate also requires a hearing. If proposed work would destroy historic material or would change the architectural design of a building, the application has to be considered by HDC. *For example*, in one historic district, an owner proposed to replace original wood windows with vinyl windows. Replacements destroy the original material of the house. In fact, the owner already had removed and destroyed some of the original windows and installed replacements. In addition, the house had groups of windows of *different* sizes, but the replacement windows all were the *same* size. This change destroyed the original architectural design. And, of course, vinyl is not an historic material. The work clearly was not historically appropriate, and the HDC did not approve it. The HDC also fined the homeowner \$5000 for doing inappropriate work. However, in this particular case, the HDC provided that the fine can be waived, if the owner removes the inappropriate windows and installs appropriate ones. The original windows still have, of course, been destroyed.

Jim Hamilton and Pam Miller-Malone are residents of Boston-Edison who serve as Commissioners. For any questions you would like to direct to them, please send an e-mail to bostonedison@gmail.com or call 883-4360 and leave them a message.

HDC uses the *Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings* to decide if proposed work is historically appropriate, or not. See www.detroitmi.gov/historic/standards.htm

START EARLY!

Don't wait until the last minute to seek pre-approval. HDC has lost two staff members. Applicants sometimes have to wait to get an appointment and pre-approval.

Historic District Commission

HDC must pre-approve exterior work as historically appropriate.

www.historicbostonedison.org/pres5.shtml

HDC staff can advise on appropriateness and help with pre-approval.

Call them early when planning.

Jennifer Ross | (313) 224-8907 | Rossj@detroitmi.gov

Crystal Wilson | (313) 224-6543 | WilsonCR@detroitmi.gov

Ask HBEA for help: zoning@historicbostonedison.org or
(313) 883-4360 mailbox 4.



WHAT'S HAPPENING ON YOUR BLOCK?

Be in the HBEA Newsletter!
Email:
PRCR@historicbostonedison.org



Block Club: The 100's Longfellow Block Club

Submitted by: Larry Gaines

The 100's Longfellow Block Club will be meeting March 20th 7pm at 120 Longfellow. This meeting will include a planning session for our July block party! Will discuss demolition of/ status of 70 Longfellow. Resident dues \$3 per month (or \$30 for one year) visitors welcome. Block club Chairman - Larry Gaines (lwkgaines3@yahoo.com); Secretary - Ivy Porterico; Marilyn Sumpter - Treasurer.

Beautification News

Soon winter will be over. The snow will melt and what we will see, as usual, is a mess. Beautification doesn't have much money left in the budget to do a major clean up like we did last year using Clean Downtown Detroit. Instead, we are asking everyone to do their part for the spring cleanup effort.

While cleaning up your property, don't forget to sweep the curb in front of your home, pick up litter on and around the boulevard medians if you live in front of one and at Voigt Park.

Early spring is a perfect time to cut down overgrown brush and trees in the alleys behind your home put down some weed preventative. With all the snow this year, unwanted vegetation is going to sprout up quick and thick.

Beautification is also compiling a list to forward to the City of Detroit Forestry Department and the Lighting Department of down tree limbs and lamp posts. We are only interested in tree limbs and brush in PUBLIC places like the boulevard medians, city owned vacant lots and Voigt Park. For example, there are down tree limbs in Voigt park at the northeast corner of the park near Longfellow and Third; or there is a lamp post laying on the median across from 2295 Chicago Blvd. Forward this information to Beautification Committee co-chair Flora Bennett fcb313@sbcglobal.net. Include in the subject line **Info for Forestry Dept.**

Zoning Committee Talks "Trash"

Literally! Did you know that the City of Detroit ordinances include guidelines on where, when, and how to use our solid waste (Courville) containers?

These include:

WHERE: Residents must store their container on their property, in either the side or rear yard. The container cannot be stored at the curb, in the front yard or on the front porch.

WHEN: Containers should be placed at curbside by 7 am on your pickup day, but no later than 6pm the day before. They should be removed it by 9 pm.

HOW: Do not overfill the container or place refuse on the ground. Do not place any unwrapped garbage, including liquids and food, inside the container. All refuse must be bagged before placing it in the container.

Watch out! Failing to follow these guidelines can result in fines of up to \$1000!

HELP WANTED

Seeking friendly folks to be on our "HBEA Advertising Team".

Boston-Edison needs a team of volunteers to solicit ads, cultivate relationships and stay connected with Detroit area businesses. Call Larry Gaines for more information at (313) 613-9279 or lwkgaines3@yahoo.com

Historic Windows CAN BE Repaired

The original windows in our historic homes **can be** repaired and **can be** energy efficient. Homeowners just need to **know**

what to do,

how to do it, and

who can help!

"I've...assessed the condition of more than a thousand [sashes], and never seen a sash that could not be repaired," wrote John Leeke, a nationally-known preservationist. Older original windows that need repair may seem like they are worn out and hopeless. In fact, they almost never are.

"[T]he repair...of existing windows is more practical than most people realize, ...because [they] lack...awareness of techniques for evaluation, repair, and weatherization" (National Park Service, *Preservation Briefs 9 and 13*.) Most repairs actually are pretty simple. Even for windows that need a good deal of repair, mostly they just need several different simple repairs.

And here's how! The Boston Edison web site now has a great deal of information on how to repair and restore windows at www.historicbostonedison.org/pres9.shtml. There is general information about historic window repair. For specific repairs, there are many how-to video demonstrations. How to refresh glazing, replace a broken pane, un-stick windows, restore rotted wood, replace a window rope, and many more. Take a look. DIY. Save some money.

Homeowners who cannot "do-it-yourself," there are specialists who can repair and weatherize windows. Unfortunately, many carpenters and general contractors don't know how to repair windows. Not knowing, they think that it can't be done. But it can! Fortunately, there are more and more skilled specialists in window repair and restoration, and in weatherizing. The web site lists some.

The web site also has information on how to make windows energy efficient, as discussed in a previous article, www.historicbostonedison.org/pres7.shtml. This also has how-to videos.

Since we live in an historic district, we also have an obligation to the historic preservation of our homes and our neighborhood. The main message from the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation of buildings is that whatever *can* be repaired *should* be repaired, not replaced. *That is what historic preservation is all about.* The same standard applies for windows. Any historic window that *can* be repaired *should* be repaired and preserved, not destroyed and replaced. See www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/rehab/rehab_windows.htm.



TIPS ON OUR WEBSITE

The Old House Guy web site is a trove of good advice and information about the care and repair of our old houses. The author has strong "old house values."

Check it out:
www.oldhouseguy.com

Owners who must use contractors still can benefit from the how-to information. If they learn about window repair, they will understand what contractors need to do and how they should do it. They can tell if a contractor really does or does not know how to make the repairs, rather than just taking a chance on someone.

B-E Trivia



This Boston-Edison resident attended Cass Tech and then Detroit Technological Institute (the forerunner of Wayne State's College of Pharmacy). During the height of the depression (1933), he took over a failing pharmacy, reopening it under his own name, adding a soda fountain and ice cream business. His business expanded, with him eventually owning nine drugstores and three ice cream parlors. He was the first African-American member of the Detroit Retail Druggist Association and president of Booker T. Washington Business Association. An endowed scholarship at Wayne State University's College of Pharmacy bears his name. **Who is he?** (Answer on Page 8)

HISTORIC BOSTON-EDISON ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 02100, Detroit, MI 48202

Website: www.historicbostonedison.org | Email: bostonedison@gmail.com | Hotline: 313.883.4360

Trivia Answer: Sidney Barthwell - 2035 W. Boston

B-E Connected!

Are you receiving Boston-Edison Emails for neighborhood events?

If not, email us your information and we will add you right away!

Email: bostonedison@gmail.com

Care to share on the BE Discussion Google Group? (For HBEA Dues-Paying Members)

Email: discussion-boston-edison@googlegroups.com to join

Or contact us at bostonedison@gmail.com and we will add you.

Want real-time Security Alerts? (A Security Google Group for DSS Subscribers)

Contact the Security Committee for information about joining Dusing Security and

Surveillance. (313) 883-4360 Security *Mailbox 3



Historic Boston-Edison Detroit



@BostonEdisonDet