

MARCH 2018



Dates to Remember:

- MARCH 21**
Spring General Meeting
- MARCH 24**
HBEA Easter Egg Hunt
- MAY 12**
Sounds of Music Concert 1
- MAY 17**
Membership Happy Hour
- MAY 23**
Annual Membership Meeting
- JUNE 16**
Home Preservation Fair
- JULY 19**
Membership Happy Hour
- AUGUST 4**
Sounds of Music Concert 2
- AUGUST 11-12**
Attic Sale
- AUGUST 25**
Picnic in the Park

Visit historicbostonedison.org for additional event details!



Photo Credit: Eleanor Oakes

Get Involved as a Historic Boston-Edison Association Board Member

In May, the Historic Boston-Edison Association will hold elections for nine Board of Directors positions. Five are in Zone C (Rosa Parks to Linwood): one from each street, W. Boston Blvd., Chicago Blvd., Longfellow St., Edison St., and one At-Large to represent that portion of the District. Three are in Zone B (Hamilton to Rosa Parks): one from each street, W. Boston Blvd., Longfellow St., and Edison St. There is also one additional At-Large position to represent Zone A (Woodward to Hamilton).

Here is your chance to not only volunteer, but have direct input in the operation of the organization and its community outreach. This is a prime opportunity to meet and collaborate with neighbors, as Board Members guide the direction of the Association and plan many events and activities to connect, inform, and engage Boston-Edison residents and guests from around the community.

Nominating petitions will be available soon, with the nomination deadline of April 15th. Check historicbostonedison.org for more information, and look for further details via email.

Good luck to all interested candidates!

HBEA Easter Egg Hunt | Hop on by!

Saturday, March 24, 2018 at Noon - Voigt Park

Bring the kids out for an afternoon of fun in Voigt Park at the annual HBEA Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 24. The kids will enjoy games, as well as yummy popcorn and pizza, while the adults mix and mingle with fellow neighbors and friends. The hunt begins at noon. We hope to see you there!





Picnic in the Park

Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018
Voigt Park
1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

A Great Family Fun Event

Pooch Parade
Catered Picnic Fare
2nd Annual Neighbor
Dessert Contest
Bingo, Giant Jenga, Cornhole,
Cards and Other Fun Games
Fun events for children
and young teens
Door Prizes

To volunteer on the Picnic
Committee or help out on
the day of the event, contact
Dianne Bostic Robinson at
313-477-0264.

Your \$40 Benefits the Neighborhood More than you Might Know

"While the spirit of neighborliness was important on the frontier because neighbors were so few, it is even more important now because our neighbors are so many." ~Lady Bird Johnson



Exactly where does my \$40 in dues go? Since serving on the Historic Boston-Edison Board I have heard that question, and perhaps have not done a very good job in articulating the answer. Let me first say that I believe that everyone should be a dues paying member because it is difficult to ask others to support our neighborhood, if we don't support it ourselves.

The bulk of the income for Boston-Edison comes from the annual Holiday Home Tour & VIP Twilight Tour. A small portion of our income is generated from dues including what generous dues payers donate in addition to the \$40, from ads, sponsorships and small fundraisers. Income and expenses from the previous year and the budget for the coming year is shared with neighbors at the general membership meeting each May.

- Beautification -- a contractor who regularly maintains flower beds around entry signs, including watering, mulching and seasonal plantings, vacant lot clean up and mowing, holiday decorating of entry signs, alley clean up support, and entry banners on designated lamp post for this year, etc.
- Security -- security blitzes during the year and extra security hours when incidences warrant it.
- Events --including Picnic in the Park, Attic Sale, Ice Cream Social, Easter Egg Hunt, Happy Hour, Bowling, Oktoberfest, Hops in the Alley, Music Concert Series, etc.
- Communications -- newsletter printings and mailings, Constant Contact emails and in 2017, the development of our redesigned Boston-Edison web site.
- Other -- mailing dues notices, the HBEA Executive Secretary, tax preparation, office supplies, insurance, etc.

The Association is managed by your volunteer Board and other neighbors who volunteer. Dues in a few other neighborhoods range from \$50 to \$495 and some neighborhoods are Special Assessment Districts, in which neighbors pay a special tax for city services such as enhanced security, snow removal or mosquito abatement.

There is no doubt that dues are important to maintaining many of the special events that make this neighborhood one of the most sought after in metro Detroit.

If you have not paid your dues please consider doing so. We always want you to know where your money goes, and we want you to know that we also need your input and activism. That combination truly makes Boston-Edison great.

Dianne Bostic Robinson
HBEA President

SAVE THE DATE | 2018 Home Preservation Fair

Saturday, June 16, 2018 | Noon - 5 p.m.

The Fair is free and open to the public. A registration fee is required for home restoration/preservation specialists. In addition to exhibiting contractors, informational workshops will be presented.

Aware of reputable, licensed contractors for the 2018 Home Preservation Fair? Please share names and contact information via hpf@historicbostonedison.org

2018 Welcomes an Extra Special “Sounds of Music” Series

The eighth season of the “Sounds of Music” House concert series promises to be extra special. In addition to two concerts in beautiful Boston-Edison homes, the third concert will be at the Junior League of Detroit’s Designers’ Show House, the Charles T. Fisher Mansion, recently purchased by actor, philanthropist, author and entrepreneur Hill Harper.

The first concert, Saturday, May 12, will feature classical piano and vocals with Alvin Waddles and Friends. This will be a “homecoming” concert for Alvin, as he grew up in Boston-Edison. Alvin is known for his leading role in the annual presentation of “Too Hot to Handel” and for his portrayal of the jazz pioneer Fats Waller.

Our very popular summer jazz party Saturday, Aug. 4, showcases pianist Mike Jellick and his trio. Mike is a highly in-demand performer in the Midwest and beyond, performing solo and with such high-profile jazz musicians as Christian McBride, Tia Fuller, the late Marcus Belgrave and many others.

The concert at the Junior League of Detroit Designers’ Show House on Wednesday, Oct. 3, will feature jazz pianist/organist Gerard Gibbs and RYZ (“Rise”). Gerard is another stellar Detroit musician who, in addition to his solo projects, has traveled the world with such jazz greats as James Carter, Ralph Armstrong, Ronnie Laws, Marion Meadows and the group Pieces of a Dream.

Early bird tickets for the May and August concerts are \$45. Prices will increase to \$55 ten days before each concert. Tickets to the October concert, including a two-hour tour of the show house, are \$85. Tickets are \$55 to attend the concert only.

All concerts include a full buffet dinner with drinks.

Sounds of Music

SEASON 8



For complete information, please visit historicbostonedison.org or contact Music Director Michelle May at music@historicbostonedison.org or 313-865-1149.

Calling All Photographers!

Have you taken great photos of the neighborhood you want to share with the community? Let us know! The Public Relations committee would love to get your images on our social media account or even in a newsletter. Please send high resolution copies of your photos to newsletter@historicbostonedison.org with desired photo credit title.

Are You an Artist?

We are looking to host an art fair in Voigt Park this year during the weekend of our annual Attic Sale, August 11-12. If you are an artist and would like to receive more information, email artinthepark@historicbostonedison.org.



2017 Holiday Home Tour – Recap and Many Thanks!

The 2017 Holiday Home Tour & VIP Twilight Tour once again was a success. The Tour sold out within hours and netted nearly \$29,000 to support our Boston-Edison programs and community events!

The Home Tour Committee was a dedicated group that met every other week from September through the week of the tour. We are beyond grateful for the commitment of these volunteers: Karen Seaman (chair), Deniera Davis (vice chair), Dianne Bostic Robinson, Gracie Brown, James Hamilton, Cleo Hamilton, Michelle May, Michael Mowers, Marcia Pilliciotti, Gerald Polk, Tristan Putnam, Jack Seavitt, and Greg Sikora Mowers.

An event such as this would not have been possible without the 100-plus volunteers - tour guides, bus coordinators, docents, reception workers, check-in staff, cookie donors and the list continues. We were also delighted to receive the many baked or bought goodies for our Cookie Reception this year. We sure hope that we can count on your delicious donations next year!

Special thanks to those who took on special tasks to support the home tour: Linda Almon, Christine Bossler, Katherine Brummel, Tom DeLaura, Bob DeLaura, Tierney Eaton, Wanda Gaines, Anita Gary, Pierre Haden, Mary Howard, Charlie Howard-Putnam, Melissa Jasper, Charee Johnson, David and Dawn Johnson, Mark LeDuc, Naomi Lewis, Marissa McCoy, Cassi Meitl, Tara Miller, Pamela Miller-Malone, Jerald Mitchell, Greg and Janeene Montgomery, Mike Morgan, Andrew Moskalik, Eleanor Oakes, Tina Patterson, Angie Polk, and Chris Schim.

The tour would not have occurred without the generous homeowners who welcomed our many guests into their beautiful homes:

Jon and Vanessa Saunders | Kimberly and Lawrence Williamson
John and Kristina Economy | Nic Pence and Margo Wolowiec | Devon Hoover



And thank you to Berry Tindle and Anne Ward, owners of the Briggs Mansion on West Boston Blvd., who hosted our VIP Twilight Tour.

The Twilight Tour began with dinner Saturday evening at the Life Remodeled-Community Innovation Center, formerly Durfee Middle School, and was followed by an enhanced tour inside all five homes featured on Sunday's Home Tour. The tour culminated in a Sips & Sweets reception at a sixth home, the Briggs Mansion, which was showcased for the first time in the 43-year history of the Holiday Home Tour. Special thanks to: Deniera Davis and her staff (Events on the Boulevard), Cost Plus Wine (Eastern Market), Jackson's Five Star Catering, Ovations Catering, Huntington Bank for its sponsorship dollars, and to music coordinator Michelle May for coordinating pianist Charles Greene.



March General Membership Meeting Agenda - Full of great news

Great speakers, tons of helpful information and presentations about activities going on in and around the Boston-Edison district highlight the agenda for the March General Membership Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for March 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. Doors open at 6:30. Agenda includes:

- Speakers include Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, who will give an update on the county and City Council President Pro-Tem Mary Sheffield who will discuss city issues affecting the Boston-Edison District and the rest of the city. Other invited speakers include our new District Manager Marshall Bullock, County Commissioner Jewel Ware and our precinct commander and neighborhood police officers.
- A presentation on the Cass Community Services Tiny Homes project, an innovative and affordable housing option for qualified low-income residents located near Boston-Edison.
- The Junior League of Detroit's plans for the Designers' Show House at the Charles T. Fisher Mansion and how the money raised will benefit Detroit and the greater Detroit community.
- Exciting 2018 activities being planned for our neighborhood, how you can become involved and updates from Board members and neighbors on the progress being made to help ensure we meet our mission and vision.

And, as with every general membership meeting, you have a chance to claim a winning raffle ticket!

The Banners are Coming, The Banners are Coming!

After almost two years of planning, Boston-Edison lamp post banners are coming and should be installed by summer or sooner. We are excited about the designs being suggested and know you will share in our excitement when the banners are installed.

Also on the horizon, though not quite as quickly, the neighborhood will also see new Boston-Edison entry signs. Due to the high expense of this project, entry signs will be replaced in stages. Special fundraisers are being examined to help move this project along. Of course, a foundation grant, or donations would help us complete the task sooner. All of which will be explored to secure the necessary funding for this project.

If you have a great idea, please let us know. Contact dbosticrobinson@historicbostonedison.org or 313-477-0264.

BLOCK CLUB BUZZ

Chicago Boulevard East Block Club Holiday Decorating Competition

In December, the Chicago East Block Club launched friendly competition for the best outside holiday decorations. The group asked judges from other block clubs and other cities to identify the most festive displays. The homes that most wowed the judges are:

101 Chicago Boulevard | 115 Chicago Boulevard | 721 Chicago Boulevard

Congratulations to the homeowners for adding sparkle, beauty and holiday cheer in the Chicago Boulevard East Block.

Photos to the right.





Join the Boston-Edison Radio Patrol (BERP)

Do you like the idea of a safe neighborhood? I'm guessing you said yes! Consider volunteering for the Boston-Edison Radio Patrol (BERP). If you can spare a few hours a month, you can help make Boston-Edison safer, plus you can meet some great people while you're at it. BERP is seeking volunteers for patrol and base station command.

Training is provided and mileage is reimbursed at IRS limits.

Learn more at historicbostonedison.org or contact BERP President Trevor Footitt at (313) 869-2757.

REMINDER!

April 19th is the FIRST day for yard waste pick-up!

Please do not put your yard waste at the street until then.



Being a Good Neighbor in Boston-Edison

As Boston-Edison residents, first and foremost we want to keep Boston-Edison in the way that attracted us to live here: Historic, beautiful, clean, and a great place to live.

Several City of Detroit Ordinances Support Our Goals

As we all adhere to these rules, we protect the character and quality of our neighborhood, and help increase and protect property values. We keep Boston-Edison ever more the place we value. Thus, each of us has a responsibility to our neighbors to do our part. Here are the most important city ordinances affecting Boston-Edison.

Exterior renovations must be pre-approved.

The principal feature of Boston-Edison is the historic character of our houses and of the neighborhood as a whole. The Detroit Historic District Commission (HDC) helps preserve the historic character of Boston-Edison by ensuring that any work done on the exterior of a property conforms to historic standards. Before any exterior work is started, HDC must pre-approve that the work maintains the historic features of the house. Approval is a straightforward process; most restorations stay clearly within the historic standards and approvals are easily obtained. For more information visit historicbostonedison.org/Home-Repair.

Boston-Edison houses may not be used for commercial purposes.

Boston-Edison is zoned strictly for single-family residential uses (R-1). This means that your neighbors always will be other families. Houses in Boston-Edison cannot be used as stores, offices, rooming houses, fraternities, or anything other than homes for single families. Home offices are allowed, but with restrictions: for details, see historicbostonedison.org/Home-Occupations.

Trash set out for curb pickup must be placed properly.

Mounds of trash on the curb are not beautiful, nor clean. The rule is that Courville trash containers, yard waste, bulk trash, and recycling may be placed on the curb no earlier than 24 hours before the day of pickup. Both yard waste and bulk trash have restrictions on what items can be included; furthermore, yard waste must be properly bundled and is not collected during the winter months. For much specific information on how to handle trash, see historicbostonedison.org/Bulk-Trash-and-Yard-Waste, historicbostonedison.org/Yard-Waste, and historicbostonedison.org/Not-Trash.

Property must be maintained.

Keeping the neighborhood neat and clean certainly is neighborly. The City ordinance is that owners are responsible for maintaining their property from the center of the street to the center of the alley. This includes keeping litter and branches picked up, grass cut regularly, and walks shoveled within 24 hours after a snow fall.

Vehicles must be operable and properly parked.

Inoperable vehicles cannot be parked or stored anywhere within the neighborhood. Operable vehicles must be parked on the street, in garages, or on paved parking areas, and not on sidewalks or lawns. Also, commercial vehicles may not be parked overnight in residential districts. Unused vehicles parked on driveways and in backyards and never moved are unattractive: not beautiful! These vehicles can be parked out of sight in garages. Or sold and moved. For specific rules, see historicbostonedison.org/Parking.

Rental properties and vacant homes must be registered.

City ordinances require that all rental properties be registered with the City, and owners must obtain a certificate of occupancy from the City to guarantee safety. Likewise, vacant houses must be registered with the City and be kept well maintained. For more information, historicbostonedison.org/Information-for-Residents.

Special Assessment District Survey Volunteers Needed

We are still looking for volunteers for a special ad hoc committee that will survey the neighborhood to determine if you want Boston-Edison to become a City of Detroit Special Assessment District (SAD).

In 2016, the City of Detroit tweaked a city law that allows communities, such as Boston-Edison to establish “special assessment districts” in which homeowners can agree, as a community, to pay a special tax for enhanced security, snow removal or mosquito abatement. Neighbors would pay a special tax for the services and an application from the neighborhood must be approved by City Council.

In February 2017, the Board appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to research what it would mean to become a special assessment district. Soon after, at our general membership meeting, a Detroit district manager made a presentation and a representative from another Detroit neighborhood group talked about why residents there favored the special assessment.

The next step in the City's process is to survey the homeowners. This will help us determine how the majority of Boston-Edison residents feel about the assessment. Volunteers, regardless of what side of the issue they support, are needed to survey neighbors and report the findings to the Board. If you are interested in participating on this committee please contact Dianne Bostic Robinson, dbosticrobinson@historicbostonedison.org, or 313-477-0264.

For Paws Sake!

Spring is here and we know how much residents love to walk their dogs! Please remember to keep your pup on a leash for the safety of your pet and others. It is against City ordinance to have dogs off-leash unless in a designated dog park!

Historic Boston–Edison Association Board of Directors | 2017–2018 Directory

Zone A | Woodward-Hamilton

Edison Street

Patricia Jernigan 313-869-6889
pjernigan@historicbostonedison.org

Longfellow Street

Karen Seaman 248-227-0892
kseaman@historicbostonedison.org

Chicago Boulevard

Cole Allen 248-974-6274
callen@historicbostonedison.org

W. Boston Boulevard

Raymond Landsberg 313-384-5834
rlandsberg@historicbostonedison.org

At-Large

Patricia Pickett 313-715-8521
ppickett@historicbostonedison.org

Zone B | Hamilton-Rosa Parks (12th)

Edison Street

Vacant
info@historicbostonedison.org

Longfellow Street

Vacant
info@historicbostonedison.org

Chicago Boulevard

Dianne Bostic Robinson 313-477-0264
dbosticrobinson@historicbostonedison.org

W. Boston Boulevard

Vacant
info@historicbostonedison.org

At-Large

Sandra Davis 313-506-1571
sdavis@historicbostonedison.org

Zone C | Rosa Parks (12th)-Linwood

Edison Street

Mike Morgan 313-868-0581
mmorgan@historicbostonedison.org

Longfellow Street

Tina Patterson 313-418-1469
tpatterson@historicbostonedison.org

Chicago Boulevard

Pierre Haden
phaden@historicbostonedison.org

W. Boston Boulevard

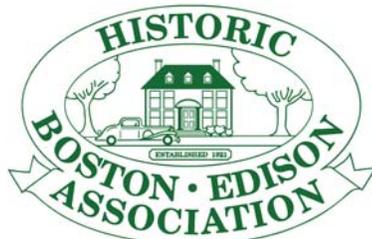
Michael Mowers 313-236-0433
mmowers@historicbostonedison.org

At-Large

Vacant
info@historicbostonedison.org

President Dianne Bostic Robinson; **1st Vice President** Michael Mowers; **2nd Vice President** Sandra Davis;
Secretary Tina Patterson; **Treasurer** Raymond Landsberg; **Executive Secretary** Marilyn Mitchell

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER



HISTORIC BOSTON-EDISON
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SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Major Seminary

**See more details and information inside.*

B-E Connected!

Are you receiving Boston-Edison emails for neighborhood events? If not, email us and we will add you right away! Email: info@historicbostonedison.org

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 info@historicbostonedison.org and we will add you.

Want real-time Security Alerts? (A Security Group for DSS Subscribers) Contact the Security Committee for information 313-883-4360 Security *Mailbox 3

Connect with us on social media!



@BostonEdisonDet



Historic Boston-Edison Detroit



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www.historicbostonedison.org