

September 2013
Edition



Dates To Remember:

Sept 15, 2013

Picnic in the Park

Sept 26, 2013

East side of Lodge Bulk Trash

All Streets

Oct 5, 2013

Sounds of Music Concert
Jacqueline Csurgai-Schmitt

Oct 23, 2013

Fall General Meeting

Dec 14, 2013

VIP Preview Party

Dec 15, 2013

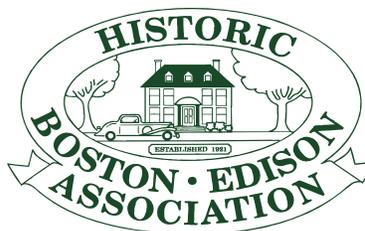
Holiday Home Tour



Volunteers
Needed:

To assist with any of our
upcoming events:

>313.883.4360 x 2
bostonedison@gmail.com



Potluck Picnic in the Park

Boston Edison Neighbors: You won't want to miss this year's Potluck Picnic in Voigt Park this Sunday, September 15th at 2pm!



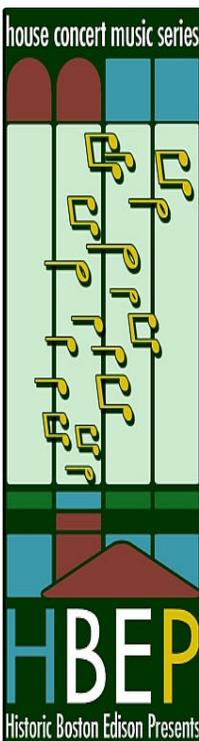
Games ✨ Prizes ✨ Raffles
Giant Slide ✨ Face Painting ✨
Crafts



New this year: Boston Edison community artists display their crafts at the Picnic. Come see the beauty your neighbors have created! See you there !

Calling all BE artists; are you an artist, jewelry designer, ceramicist, sculptor, etc.? We still have display space available. Please contact Pamela at 313-288-0382.

The "Sounds of Music" Third Concert



Join us for the third season of wonderful music, good food and good company in the beautiful homes of our Boston Edison neighborhood. All concerts are Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. The 2013 lineup concludes with Classical Piano with Jacqueline Csurgai-Schmitt on **October 5**. Tickets are on sale now and \$35 per person. Light dinner fare and drinks will be served.

Tickets are ADVANCE SALE ONLY and may be purchased through our Boston-Edison website www.historicbostonedison.org or by mailing a check/money order payable to "Boston Edison Association" to Boston-Edison Association, P.O. Box 02100, Detroit, MI 48202. Home addresses will be provided with ticket purchase. No ticket sales after 3:00p.m. on the day of the concert. All past concerts have been sellouts, so don't wait too long! Please contact our Music Director, Michelle May for more information: 313-865-1149 or NuPwr319@aol.com.

Jacqueline Csurgai-Schmitt

This award-winning, dynamic performer is in high demand in the Detroit area and beyond.



PRCR Corner

Thank you to all the neighbors who have recently stepped up to help HBEA PRCR with the newly implemented rotation of flyer delivery via block captains. We have been looking for 3-4 volunteers per block to lighten the load on our existing volunteers. It's not only a great way to help the neighborhood, it's a great way to meet your neighbors! Additional volunteers are still needed. To add your name to our rotation list, please email us: PRCR@historicbostonedison.org

IN ADDITION, PRCR is looking for Volunteers with experience in editing, proofreading, and writing articles for our Newsletter. We also need volunteers willing to find advertisers to help defray the cost of our newsletter.

Do you have experience in marketing, PR and/or social media? If so, we need you! You decide how much time you have to volunteer with PRCR, we'll work with you around your schedule. For more info, email PRCR!

BLOW OUT

**Boston-Edison Apparel
CLEARANCE SALE!**

All Items \$10 each

Limited sizes remain

T Shirts/Sweat Shirts/Polos

Baseball Caps/Safari Hats

**Contact your Membership
Committee: Jerome Brown
and Gracie Brown.**

A Letter from the HBEA President

Dear Neighbors:

I want to express my appreciation to the scores of neighbors who volunteer their time, efforts and skills to make our neighborhood a safer, more desirable and stable place to live. At our Annual Meeting in June, we thanked those volunteers who donated time over the past year. That list of volunteers was 150 strong! Without this army of volunteers we would not be able to maintain the lawns of vacant homes; plant and maintain the common flower beds; mow the vacant lots; board up vacant homes; apply for grants and funding; organize and hold neighborhood events (IE: Attic Sale; Picnic in the Park; Quarterly Membership Meetings); hold our major fundraising events (Annual Holiday Home Tour and the Preview Party); orchestrate our in-home "Sounds of Music" Concert Series; provide private security and liaison services to DPD; work with the Historic District Commission to insure the historic integrity of our neighborhood is maintained; educate residents and work with city departments to insure Zoning and other city ordinances are followed; keep a handle on vacant homes in need of attention; communicate with residents via written flyers, Constant Contacts, Newsletters and our own website. This list could go on, but you get my point - the commitment of so many neighbors is what makes Boston-Edison a unique and desirable place to live.

We are always looking for more volunteers to assist in our efforts. We need people with a variety of skills to make this neighborhood work. We need people with skills and/or interest in grant writing to horticulture, minor carpentry to lawn mowing, writing and editing to public relations. We need people who will help out with one-time events such as an alley cleaning or who want to volunteer on an on-going basis with one of our committees (Beautification, Fund Development, Home Tour, Membership, Public Relations / Community Relations, Security, or Zoning). If you have the time and desire to contribute to making Boston-Edison a better place to live, consider volunteering on one of our committees, on a one-time event, or help plan one of our community events. Every little bit helps! You can contact us at bostonedison@gmail.com or by calling 883-4360 x2 to get more information.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all during this upcoming year.

Once again, thanks for all you do.

Brian Ceccon
President

Boston-Edison Security Alerts

HBEA Security continues to hear reports of daytime **garage break-ins**.
Cars are being stolen at night and during EARLY morning hours.

A new car theft technique has appeared recently. Thieves drive up behind a car parked on the street and simply push it away into a nearby alley or vacant house and strip it.

TIP 1: when you park your car on the street, turn the wheels toward the curb. Turn them until the steering column locks. Then your car cannot be pushed away. **TIP 2:** set the emergency brake. Also, a friendly **TIP 3:** Thefts from cars only happen when there is something left in the cars to steal! Remember not to leave anything in sight inside your car. Even just the cords for GPS, phones, etc. If a thief sees a cord, he may think that the electronic device is just hidden out of sight, and break in to look for it.

Report Suspicious Activity!

DSS subscribers should continue to contact the patrol to report suspicious activity in your block and use the Security Alert Google Group for real-time security posts. If you are not with DSS yet, this is a perfect time to add private security as an additional layer of protection for your home and family. Call (313) 585-4085 for info.

Block Club News

Our 'Chicago Lodgers' - 1200-1500 Block of Chicago Blvd.

Diane Bostic-Robinson, President

I stated in one of our block newsletters some time ago that what I wanted to create on our Block was the type of neighborhood that I grew up in where neighbors all knew each other, helped each other, had fun together with picnics, etc. Our kids grew up together surrounded by neighbors who became mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles. They were friends and like a family. I think we are developing this in the Chicago Lodgers.

We used to be very, very active many years ago. Then slowly the younger families moved out and the older families moved or the older ones died. Three families still worked to hold the Block Club together. Then about four years ago, we began to have an influx of families moving in, starting with three families and then one at a time until now we have a very active Block Club with a very strong core group of families.

Chicago Lodgers revisit block club goals annually. I'd like to share a few in the hopes they will inspire you to start a block club or add some fresh ideas to your calendar! Plan at least three family gatherings (summer picnic, Halloween party, holiday caroling) Plan at least two adult gatherings (progressive international dinner party, evening get-togethers, game/movie/party nights.) New Neighbor welcome dinners. Spring alley clean-up, vacant house and median clean-ups, yard of the month recognition, block club newsletter, front porch gatherings or porch to porch walks, back-yard gatherings.

... and the list goes on! Feel Free to contact the Chicago Lodgers via PRCR@historicbostonedison.org. We will return your email. We have more to share!

Remember:

DSS responds to paid subscribers.

- ◆ Please do not call your neighbor who subscribes and ask them to call for the patrol.
- ◆ Please do not call security committee volunteers and ask them to call for the patrol.
- ◆ Please become a paid subscriber TODAY for \$30/month and then YOU can call the patrol!



2013 Attic Sale—Lodgers volunteer to partner with PRCR at HBEA welcome tent.



Chicago Lodgers Annual Block Club Picnic

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON YOUR BLOCK?
Be in the HBEA Newsletter!
Email: PRCR@historicbostonedison.org



WATERING NEEDS!

The Beautification Committee needs help watering the B-E beds through the fall.

Calling all volunteers!

If you live near a planting bed and are able stretch your garden hose across the street...it would be very much appreciated!

These young plants need lots of water until they become established.

If you want to help, but do not live near a bed, filling 2-liter plastic bottles with a tight screw cap is a leak-free way to transport water.

Post a quick message on the HBEA Discussion Board to let us know which beds you visit and on which days.

Your Fall “To-Do List” for Spring Beauty

Annuals: Clean out all annuals from your flower bed. If done by the end of fall, beds will be neat and tidy and ready for spring planting. Amend your bed by adding compost, which adds minerals to the soil. Putting down a 2 inch layer of mulch will help keep next year’s weed growth down, keep moisture in the soil and prevent it from washing away. Fall is a great time to plant spring bulbs like tulips, daffodils, narcissus, iris, allium, and Crocus. Squirrels love to eat bulbs of most spring bulbs, except daffodils and narcissus. If you do have squirrels that dig up your bulbs, use Cayenne pepper, garlic powder, blood meal or human hair on the ground, after you have planted. Reapplying might be necessary if we get a lot of rain or snow. Bulbs can be planted from late August until the ground freezes usually late December. They like to be planted deep rather than shallow, and as early as possible after the temperature drops below 60 degrees. Fall planting allows for maximum root development and enhances overall performance.

Perennials: These plants need dead heading in the fall. It is a good time to divide plants and this will help with the blooms and entire plant next year. Do not fertilize in the fall, so new growth will not be harmed by winter weather. Don’t forget to add soil if needed and mulch around the base, to help keep plant warm over the winter. If you do divide large perennials, make sure to water them well after replanting. Roses should continue to produce flowers until the 1st hard frost. Stop pruning to allow roses to form rose hips which signals them that fall is coming and prepare to go dormant. If you fertilize, or continue to prune late into the year, the new growth will not get a chance to harden-off before winter. This new growth will be weak and could be damaged by cold winds and snow.

Lawns: Apply fertilizer application in mid- to late October before the temps drop below 50 degrees. Use fertilizer that has a specially formulated for fall and winter. This will help the lawn to start the winter healthy while you continue to cut and water. Iron supplements like the non-burning, organic Milorganite help with beautiful green grass.

A Friendly Reminder: Our alleys are starting to look overgrown. If you have unsightly growth behind your home, please clean it up now. A weedwacker will cut down much of the unwanted growth. This is the time of year the city will be giving out tickets for overgrown alleys, that can range from \$100-\$1,000.

The Beautification Committee would like to thank everyone that helped with the flower bed project. They look great and are ready for next year.

Residents: Trevor Footitt, One Iam, Jon Scott and family, Brenda and Lafayette West, Bryan Paris, Kim and Michael Davis, Robert Carmichael, Willie Stringer, Diane Bostic-Robinson, Ken McFarlane and Flora Bennett co-chair.

Board Members: Brian Cecon, Victoria Koski and Debbie Baldwin co-chair.

Also special thank you to Mr. Austin for the help getting MDOT out for the Lodge trim and this year’s grass cutters: Fred Davis, Heyward Graves, Kim Boyd Harris, Ken Lemon and Frank Griffith.

Start now to winterize windows

Believe it or not, windows are not the main source of heat loss in our homes. Most heat loss is through the roof! The best way to save the most money on heating bills is to attack the biggest problems. Cellulose insulation properly blown into the attic gives excellent return for the money.

But for windows, there are simple things that can dramatically increase their energy efficiency, and help save heating cost. “A historic wood window, properly maintained, weatherstripped and with a storm window, can be just as energy efficient as a new window.” Studies have shown it. National Trust for Historic Preservation, “Historic Wood Windows” (emphasis added).

What to Do? 1-2-3

A good storm window is the first and essential step.

Exterior caulking is needed everywhere around the window frames and sills.

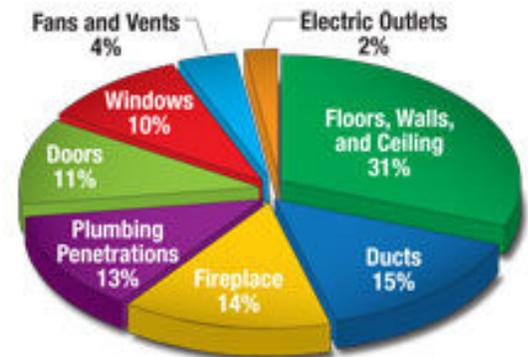
Interior weather stripping around window frames and sash will seal them up and stop drafts.

How to Do It?

For information and video demonstrations on how to weatherize your windows, go to the Boston Edison web site: www.historicbostonedison.org/pres7.shtml. The web site emphasizes what many homeowners can do using simple, low-cost materials, ordinary household skills, and some knowledge about how to do it. Even if you want to hire a contractor, you will have more success in working with one, if you know what you need and how it should be done! The DIY information on the web site will help prepare you.

Installing storm windows probably is best left to contractors with lots of experience.

The web site also has a list of window contractors. Contractors do the simple things in the same way that you would. So if you can, do-it-yourself and save money. A middle way to save money is to do the easy things yourself, and hire a contractor for the rest, such as installing storm windows, or doing the second story windows.



LIGHTS ON FOR SAFETY!

IN FRONT
IN BACK
INSIDE
ALL NIGHT
EVERY NIGHT
EVERYONE

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

"THE ZONE"

Historic Boston-Edison Association (HBEA)

Have you ever been notified by the City that your house needs to be painted or your Courville container was left out too long? If so, you may have wondered why the City wastes its time caring about something as insignificant as this. The answer is simple. Peeling paint, yards overgrown with weeds, and property that is not maintained affects the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Code Enforcement: The City of Detroit Building Safety, Engineering and Environmental Department along with the Police Department works with neighborhood associations such as ours to resolve these kinds of issues. In many cases, a letter or visit to the owner of the offending property owner takes care of the issue. The City has also been very good about giving people time to correct the problem, if there is a "good faith effort" involved.

However, in cases where property owner refuses to cooperate, the City can end up taking you to Court, where the resolution can be time-consuming and expensive, much more than a new coat of paint for a peeling house.

You can avoid these hassles by knowing what is considered a common violation.

Here's a list of the Top Ten Violations in the City:

1. Solid Waste. Ord 22-2-88
2. Failure to Register Rental Property. Ord 9-1-81 (a)
3. Failure to Obtain Certificate of Compliance. Ord 9-1-36a
4. Violation Time Limits for Container-Curb Side. Ord 22-2-45
5. Illegal Dumping. Ord 22-2-83
6. Improper Placement-Courville Containers. Ord 22-2-43
7. Inoperable Vehicles. Ord. 9-1-110 (a)
8. Allowing High Weeds. Ord 9-1-104
9. Allowing Rodent Harborage. Ord 9-1-105 (a)
- 10 Early Bulk Set Out. Ord 22-2-22 (a)

The following is a selection of city ordinances that the Zoning Committee has been and will continue to focus on:

- ⇒ Individuals residing at vacant/abandoned property
- ⇒ Inoperable Vehicles; unauthorized parking on premises
- ⇒ Accumulation of solid waste/debris on premises
- ⇒ Operating a "commercial use" on property zoned Residential"
- ⇒ Operating an unauthorized business within a residential district
- ⇒ Improper placement of Garbage container on the premises
- ⇒ Historic District Guidelines - Exterior Modifications
- ⇒ Unregistered Vacant and Rental Property
- ⇒ Unlicensed Group homes and Rooming houses

You can report a code enforcement violation, by simply reporting the address and the kind of violation involved through the HBEA website or you may contact us at Telephone No. 883-4360 x4.

HBEA "does not" enforce City Code/Ordinances. Once a complaint is received, the appropriate Work Group will validate the complaint to determine if an actual violation exists. If there is a violation, a notification will be sent to the owner/ resident, asking that they mitigate the issue within 10 days or contact the Committee to explain why the issue cannot be remedied. If the violation persists after 10 days, the Zoning Committee will contact the City of Detroit to investigate the matter - which may result in the issuance of a ticket.

The City issues a blight violation when an owner fails to follow specific ordinances. Blight Violation Notices (BVNs) are written tickets issued by City Inspectors, Police Officers and other City officials, who investigate complaints. Blight Violation Notices (BVNs) are issued to property owners "or" those in control of the property. Violators will be ticketed and may be required to appear before the Department of Administrative Hearings (DAH) if corrections are not made in a timely manner.

The following information is presented for educational purposes. All violations/fines listed are for the first offense. Fines increase for repeat offenses.

DETROIT CODE OF ORDINANCES

Maintenance

Structure or yard not maintained	\$ 250
Emergency conditions: sewage, no heat or electric, falling porches	\$ 500
Grass and weeds over 8" height	\$ 50
Ice, snow or debris on sidewalks or right-of-way	\$ 100

Waste

Yard waste not in paper bags	\$ 200
Boxes, crates outside refuse container	\$ 200
Brush, shrubbery or bulk trash exceeds approved size or weight	\$ 200
Trash container out early or late	\$ 100
Animal waste on property	\$ 200

Hazardous Waste

Pet waste not bagged	\$1500
Burning solid waste	\$1500

Dumping & Littering

Failing to secure solid waste collection container	\$200
Unlicensed and/or inoperable vehicle	\$100
Littering	\$200
Dumping on private or public property	\$200
Debris, garbage possible habitat for rodents.	\$100

Violation of Animal Control Ordinances \$500 fine and/or imprisonment. These ordinances include: Failure to vaccinate dogs against rabies; having more than four dogs/cats over four months old; failure to have/obtain a license for a dog over four months old; and failure to have a collar/harness with license tag attached to animal.

AVOID TICKETS BY FOLLOWING CITY CODES

Following city code will help to ensure a clean, safe and healthy neighborhood for yourself and your neighbors.

Additional education information is available at the HBEA Website www.historicbostonedison.org. Have other questions, email us: zoning@historicbostonedison.org

Historic District Commission News



The City Council created the Detroit Historic District Commission (HDC) to oversee all of the historic districts in the City, such as the Boston Edison Historic District. In passing the historic ordinance, the Council declared that preserving the City's historic buildings is in the public interest.

According to the historic ordinance, all exterior work on houses in Boston Edison must be pre-approved by the HDC. The intention is to protect and preserve historic homes and buildings in the City. This requirement provides major protection for homeowners investing in homes in Boston Edison. It is the reason that houses here are much more valuable than similar houses elsewhere in the City.

Historic Districts (HDs) are created when a majority of the residents in a neighborhood initiate a petition to the City to become a historic district. Back in 1976, Boston Edison residents did that, and the City Council created the Boston Edison HD by City ordinance. The same is true for the many other HDs. Building owners and home owners come to the City and ask to become HDs.

Here's how pre-approval works. An owner thinks about some *exterior* work on his or her house. Under the HD ordinance, an owner may only do work on the exterior, if that work is "appropriate." The owner applies to the HDC for pre-approval. The role of the HDC is to determine whether the proposed work is "appropriate." If the HDC decides that it is, the work is allowed. If it does not think so, the HDC does not allow it, and the owner may not do the work. The HDC has delegated to its professional staff the power to approve certain routine work that falls within "appropriate" guidelines. (Any *interior* work on a building is *not* covered, and owners may do any interior work that they like.) For detailed information about this pre-approval process, see the Boston Edison web site: <http://www.historicbostonedison.org/pres5.shtml>.

When the HDC must determine whether or not proposed exterior work on a house is "appropriate", the HDC must use a particular set of standards. These were created by the U. S. Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) National Park Service. In general, exterior work is "appropriate," if it preserves the historical architectural design of the house and preserves its original material. Or, conversely, the work is "appropriate," if it does not degrade the architecture or destroy material. The obvious purpose is to preserve historical houses.

The SOI has an excellent website that presents the standards. More important for homeowners, it gives very helpful guidelines for how the standards apply in particular situations, such as roofing, windows, paint colors, and so on. See www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide.

Home values in Boston Edison are protected and increased by the restriction that all exterior work must be appropriate. Home value depends, of course, on how well each owner works at maintaining and restoring his or her own home. A historic home is worth more when its historic character and materials are carefully preserved. An equally important factor, however, is how well we preserve the historic character of the neighborhood as a whole. For each owner, home value depends on how the neighborhood as a whole looks. The requirement to do only appropriate work is crucial in protecting the historic look of the neighborhood, which is so valuable to everyone.

Jim Hamilton and Pam Miller-Malone are residents of the Boston Edison HD. They are in their first year serving 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.

James Hamilton
Commissioner, HDC

Boston-Edison Board of Directors (2013-14)

The Historic Boston-Edison Association was founded in 1921 and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of the family residential neighborhood it serves. The geographic boundaries include West Boston and Chicago Boulevards and Longfellow and Edison Avenues between Woodward and Linwood Avenues.

Zone A Woodward-Hamilton (48202)

Edison Avenue
<u>OPEN</u>
Longfellow Street
<u>OPEN</u>
Chicago Boulevard
<u>Mary E. Konopka</u> 867-2128
West Boston Boulevard
<u>Pat Elazier</u> 868-1415
At Large
<u>Zené Gibson</u> 883-4077

Zone B Hamilton-Rosa Parks (12th St)

Edison Avenue
<u>Andrew Moskalik</u> 867-3045
Longfellow Street
<u>Brian Cecon</u> 865-1875
Chicago Boulevard
<u>Gracie Brown</u> 600-6829
West Boston Boulevard
<u>Jerome Brown</u> 690-0619
At Large
<u>Debbie Baldwin</u> 980-0070

Zone C Rosa Parks-Linwood (48206)

Edison Avenue
<u>Shela Chung</u> 868-8195
Longfellow Street
<u>Victoria Koski</u> 869-2757
Chicago Boulevard
<u>Pamela Doles</u> 288-0382
West Boston Boulevard
<u>Joy Rencher</u> 626-755-4558
At Large
<u>Amy Officer</u> 516-0798

Officers: **President** *Brian Cecon*; **1st Vice President** *Andy Moskalik*; **2nd Vice President** *Debbie Baldwin*
Secretary *Pamela Doles*; **Treasurer** *Mary Konopka*; **Executive Secretary** *Marilyn Mitchell*

Protect and enhance the value of your historic home. Contact the staff director of the Detroit Historic District Commission (DHDC) **BEFORE** beginning any exterior work on your property. *The DHDC can order any exterior work removed if it is done without a permit and impose a fine of up to \$500.* The DHDC is located at 65 Cadillac Square, 13th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226. Phone: 313.224.6536

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

BE Connected

Are you receiving Boston Edison Constant Contact Emails for neighborhood events?

Email us your information and we will add you right away!

Email: bostonedison@gmail.com

Care to share on the BE Discussion Google Group?

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

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

Real-time Security Alerts (Google Group) for DSS subscribers

Contact the Security Committee for information about subscribing to Dusing Security and Surveillance. (313) 883-4360 Security Mailbox 3

Facebook – Historic Boston-Edison Detroit

Twitter – follow @BostonEdisonDet

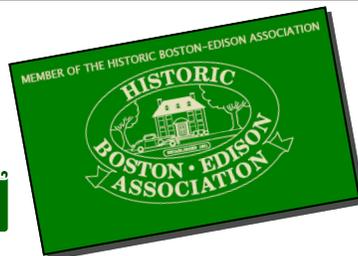
The ultimate goal for HBEA is to make Boston Edison a clean, safe, litter-free, 100% owner occupied neighborhood that values historic preservation.

HISTORIC BOSTON-EDISON ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 02100

Detroit, MI 48202

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Help HBEA achieve its member dues goal for 2013-2014. We look forward to adding your household to the growing roster of supporters!