

OCTOBER 2016



### Dates to Remember:

**OCT. 19**  
Fall General Meeting

**NOV. 17**  
Membership Happy Hour

**DEC. 10**  
Twilight Holiday Tour

**DEC. 11**  
42nd Annual Holiday Home Tour



### Volunteers Needed:

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

# 90 YEARS OF HBEA

HBEA

## Happy 90th Historic Boston-Edison Association

Yes, believe it or not the Historic Boston-Edison Association was formally constituted 90 years ago. For a 90 year old organization we continue to look quite good at this age, and that to a great extent has to do with each of you. Our stately homes have become a magnet for those wanting to move into our neighborhood. We may have seen better days around some of our edges, but we still stand strong, and can look forward to a vision for our physical facelift and all things that make us a vibrant neighborhood.

The Board is excited to work with you in developing our shared vision for the next 90 years. In this newsletter you will read how we plan on doing this at our October General Membership Meeting.

We will continue to celebrate our birthday into next year with a 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner in the Spring. Since we want to make this a grand affair we are looking at some lovely locations. We will be getting you the date and ticket price as soon as possible, so that you can plan to attend. It will be an event you will not want to miss.

Our 90 years has been, in so many ways, been built with the work done by our many volunteers. Thank you to the Attic Sale Committee under the leadership of Larry Gaines and the hard work of Karen Seaman, Michael Mowers and too many others to mention to ensure the largest number of guests ever to this event, were welcomed to our neighborhood.

The Picnic volunteers comprised of the Steering Committee and event day volunteers were awesome. I don't just say that as event chair, but because they were. Please see the Picnic article that describes their awesomeness!

Lastly, thank you to all the new Committee volunteers who answered my call in the last newsletter to provide service to the Association. Your service will help, in part, this grand old lady of a neighborhood continue to be vibrant for our next 90 years. As you hear the exciting work being done on behalf of the Association in this newsletter and the General Membership meeting, I am sure more of Boston-Edison neighbors will want to join in to help. There is much work to be done to build on our past 90 years.

I wonder what we will look like at 100... Will it match our vision?

I think it will.

Dianne



## Fall General Membership Meeting

### What Makes a Neighborhood Great? An Intimate Discussion with Bankole Thompson

On Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m., we will host the first of two general membership meetings (fall and spring), and this is one you surely won't want to miss!

Join us in welcoming award-winning journalist Bankole Thompson, who will speak to us about what makes a neighborhood great and viable for our residents. Bankole is the former senior editor of the Michigan Chronicle and current opinion columnist at the Detroit News, as well as host of Redline with Bankole Thompson on Superstation 910AM.

He is well known throughout the community for his work regarding neighborhood development and improvement, focusing on critical issues affecting residents of Detroit that are often overlooked by city government and mainstream media outlets. HBEA is honored to welcome him to the neighborhood, and we hope you will attend what is sure to be an inspiring presentation.

Following this discussion, you will have a chance to give input into what makes our Boston-Edison neighborhood great with our guest, Tameka Ramsey, who will facilitate a group session. She is the founder and senior associate at T. Ramsey & Associates, a consulting firm specializing in training, branding and empowering nonprofits and small businesses. Since the summer, the HBEA Board of Directors have been working closely with her in developing an updated mission and vision for the Association and the Boston-Edison neighborhood in general, which we are delighted to share with you at this meeting. Of course, in spite of our planning, without your input- our dear neighbors who inhabit and maintain our homes and community- our vision is empty, so your feedback is critical and invaluable in moving our neighborhood forward.

We are excited to see you and look forward to your attendance at this great event!

## A SPECIAL THANKS

"Since my incident with bullets and bricks last August, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the people who reached out to me by words, cards, cameras, money, food and extra hands. People from Boston-Edison, BERP, DSS, Lincoln Park, Sterling Heights, Commerce Twp., and Arden Park all gave me love and support.

I truly am very thankful."

- Dorothy Hall

## Historic Boston-Edison Association Board of Directors (May 2016-2017)

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 geographical boundaries include West Boston and Chicago Boulevards and Longfellow and Edison Avenues between Woodward and Linwood Avenues.

### Zone A Woodward-Hamilton

Edison Avenue  
Patricia Jernigan 869-6889  
Longfellow Street  
Karen Seaman 248-227-0892  
Chicago Boulevard  
Andrea Seavitt 867-5136  
West Boston Boulevard  
Raymond Landsberg 384-5834  
At Large  
Larry Gaines 613-9279

### Zone B Hamilton-Rosa Parks (12th)

Edison Avenue  
Victoria Edwards 258-7930  
Longfellow Street  
Frank Griffith 869-8016  
Chicago Boulevard  
Dianne Bostic Robinson 477-0264  
West Boston Boulevard  
Kimberly Howard 433-4996  
At Large  
Debbie Baldwin 980-0070

### Zone C Rosa Parks-Linwood

Edison Avenue  
Mike Morgan 868-0581  
Longfellow Street  
Tina Patterson 418-1469  
Chicago Boulevard  
Kimberly Williamson 305-7530  
West Boston Boulevard  
Michael Mowers 236-0433  
At Large  
Lawrence Williamson 305-7530

{ **President** *Dianne Bostic Robinson*; **1st Vice President** *Michael Mowers*; **2nd Vice President** *Kimberly Williamson*;  
**Secretary** *Tina Patterson*; **Treasurer** *Raymond Landsberg*; **Executive Secretary** *Marilyn Mitchell* }

## HBEA Picnic 2016- A little Rain Did Not Spoil the Fun

A little rain (wink!) did not spoil the 2016 HBEA Annual Picnic. Neighbors stayed under the tent and almost everyone got into the spirit of playing bingo.

Close to 100 neighbors attended the picnic throughout the day. The picnic was moved this year to August, which did not lessen the participation. The basic picnic food was provided by the Association. The Pooch Parade, photo table, bingo, fire truck, children's activities, food and prizes were hits. The tents, signs and table decorations were noticed and appreciated from the comments we received.

We were honored to have two very special guests at the picnic. Our District Representative Mary Sheffield and one of her aides. She later recognized Boston-Edison in her newsletter and included pictures from our picnic. Vince Keenen, our District Manager, and his son, joined us also. We appreciated that they were able to stay a while and interact with neighbors.

You can imagine that a lot of work went into planning this year's event. The planning committee of Brenda and Lafayette West, Deanne Surles, Tierney Eton, Greg Sikora Mowers and Board member Michael Mowers were awesome. They attended many meetings, solicited donations, recruited neighbors and family to assist and/or provide entertainment, and even made donations themselves for door prizes and a great deal more. Our food, prizes and supply shoppers of Sandra Hall and Rebecca Hicks cannot be thanked enough.

We had 21 neighbor volunteers who helped out in many capacities on picnic day. Volunteers were recruited beforehand, but a few were asked that day and they readily stepped in to help. There were even neighbors who were not asked, but just began to help out. For this we thank you all and would want to name each of you, but space does not permit us to do so. All volunteers will be recognized at the General Membership meeting.

We hope that each of you had a very good time and we hope to see you next year.

- Dianne Bostic Robinson (Chair) and Karen Seaman (Vice-chair)



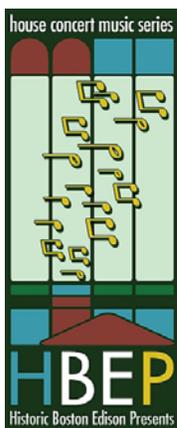
## 2016 "Sounds of Music" Concert Season a Success!

The final concert of the sixth annual "Sounds of Music" House Concert Series was a wonderful folk music concert featuring the award-winning singer/songwriter Jill Jack on guitar and vocals. Mark Iannace accompanied Jill on vocals, percussion and accordion. The concert took place at the beautiful home of Michael Mowers and Greg Sikora Mowers. Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner provided by Ovations Catering through Sacred Heart Seminary.

We would like to thank the following advertisers and sponsors for their support of this year's series: St. Clair Glass and Mirror Company, Nicholas Schrock of Allstate Insurance, Gaye Butler of Robinson Realty and Management Group (Young People's Concert Sponsor), Harlan and Kimberly Howard of Hoplan Famous Dogs (Young People's Concert Sponsor), Dorothy Adair (Series Sponsor), The Barthwell Group (Series Sponsor), C&N Party Rentals, David Steinberg of Detroit Professional Tax Service, LLC, and Greg Sikora Design. Thank you to Michelle May, Music Director, for her leadership in putting this series together.



Also, very special thanks to the homeowners who hosted the concerts this season: Kimberly and Lawrence Williamson of Chicago Blvd., Deniera Davis and Carl Holmes of Chicago Blvd., and Michael and Greg Mowers of West Boston Blvd.





# THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US!

## 42nd Annual Holiday Home Tour

This year's Holiday Home Tour will take place on December 11th. As past years, it will feature five beautifully decorated Boson-Edison homes that guests can tour. Beginning at Sacred Heart Seminary, the tours will be timed throughout the day and guests will be transported via bus. For HBEA Members current on their dues, we are offering a special 3-day window to purchase tickets before they become available to the public. Tickets are \$40 each and can only be purchased online. Please look for a postcard in the mail with further detail.

## Holiday Twilight Tour

The VIP Preview Party is taking a new shape as the Holiday Twilight Tour! This tour will take place on December 10, feature a sixth home, offer food/beverages, and other special touches as part of the ticket price. In addition, tour guides on the bus will point out other significant homes in the neighborhood that are along the route, further enhancing the experience of our guests. Tickets are \$75 and can only be purchased online.

## Think about decorating...

As we clean-up outside and prepare for cold weather, you may want to make a plan for your holiday decorations. Our Holiday Home Tour brings hundreds of guests to our neighborhood (and hopefully some potential home buyers) and we would love to greet them with our Boston-Edison holiday spirit!

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## From the Cookie Monster - HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Cleo Hamilton, "The Cookie Monster," is looking forward to contacting you. Remember that the Boston-Edison Home Tour is famous for its cozy reception at Sacred Heart Seminary.

The usual cookies, sliced tasty breads, small cupcakes, Costco cream puffs, Dunkin Donut holes, etc. are all appropriate. However, while we all do not have time to bake, home-baked items are very desirable. If you purchase cookies, make sure they are something you would like to eat! In the past, those who are short of time have dropped off cash and I have purchased mini-sized cookies from Mrs. Fields. They vanish as though homemade.

I will call and email as many folks to donate as I can in early December. If I miss you, do not hesitate to donate anyway.

Bring donations to 758 Longfellow any time before the tour as I can freeze early offerings. Saturday, Dec. 10, I will be home from noon to 5 p.m. accepting cookies. If you do not get them to my house by that Saturday, please bring them to the seminary after 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 11.

Remember, if you do not wish to bake or purchase cookies, drop cash off in my door slot and I will purchase them for you. Workers for the cookie room at the seminary the day of the tour are also needed. Teenagers are always welcome to help.

Call Cleo Hamilton: (313) 865-6306 or email [james.hamilton@wayne.edu](mailto:james.hamilton@wayne.edu).



## Working from Home in Boston-Edison

The Boston-Edison neighborhood is zoned R1 (Single Family Residential District). This zoning designation protects that quiet family atmosphere of the neighborhood by restricting what houses and property can be used for in the neighborhood. Generally, that prevents homes in Boston-Edison from being used for manufacturing or business purposes. However, setting aside a small area of your home as a home office – an example of what’s known as a “home occupation” – is specifically allowed by the zoning ordinances.

### What is a “Home Occupation”?

A home occupation is defined as a business-related function within the home, where (a) the operator of the home occupation is a full-time resident in the home, (b) the home occupation uses less than 25 percent and less than 500 square feet of the total floor area of the home, and (c) the primary use of the home is for residential purposes, not the home occupation. In addition, home occupations have further restrictions:

- Home occupations may not have “nonresident employees.” A nonresident employee is any person affiliated with the home occupation, who does not live in the home, but who visits as part of the home occupation.
- Clients or customers may visit the home occupation, but not so many as to cause an increase in traffic near the home beyond the normal amounts of traffic by neighborhood residents and guests.
- Signs or other evidence of the home occupation are not allowed.
- No home occupation may operate in such a manner so as to create a nuisance to surrounding property (for example, nuisances stemming from traffic, parking, noise, or disturbance of the peace).

### What is NOT a “Home Occupation”?

Although home occupations can generally be any type of business enterprise, some types of home uses are specifically prohibited, even as a home occupation. These include:

- Sales of fireworks or firearms.
- Offering sexually explicit materials or services.
- Repair or assembly of any type of vehicle or small engine (including automobiles, motorcycles, scooters, snowmobiles, outboard marine engines, lawn mowers, chain saws).
- Any occupation requiring use or storage of hazardous materials.
- Any type of “group living,” including nursing or rest homes, emergency shelters, fraternity or sorority houses, religious residential facility, or rooming houses.

## Liberty Bank Home Restoration and Acquisition Program

If you’re thinking about renovating your home – or if you know someone who’s interested in buying a home in the Boston-Edison District – the Liberty Bank Home Restoration and Acquisition Program may be able to help.

A fellow Boston-Edison neighbor, recently won a home in the Boston-Edison District through a Detroit Land Bank auction. However, he was unable to get financing from local banks and had to book a loan with a predatory lender at an 18 percent interest rate. When Liberty Bank learned of the situation, it refinanced his loan through its Home Restoration and Acquisition Program, providing the means to renovate the home at a much better interest rate.

Liberty Bank’s Home Restoration and Acquisition Program is a nontraditional mortgage and home improvement program available in seven Detroit neighborhoods – including Boston-Edison – to help people purchase or renovate homes. It features:

- Down payment assistance up to \$15,000 for qualified borrowers without income requirements.
- Flexible financing terms.
- A project inspector to monitor home improvements.
- Homebuyer’s education program.

This program is not available to investors. The homes that are purchased or renovated must be a primary residence. For additional information, please visit [www.libertybank.net/hrap](http://www.libertybank.net/hrap) or call (313) 818-0232.

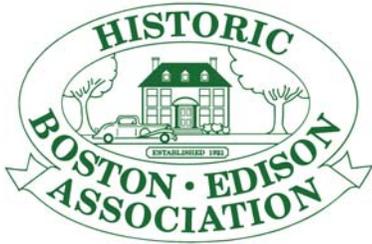
## Zoning Committee

### REMINDER!

**Nov. 17th is the LAST day for yard waste pick-up!**



## OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER



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# FALL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 19, 2016  
7:00pm at Sacred Heart Seminary

### B-E Connected!

Are you receiving Boston-Edison emails for neighborhood events? If not, email us and we will add you right away! Email: [bostonedison@gmail.com](mailto:bostonedison@gmail.com)

Care to share on the BE Discussion Google Group? (For HBEA Dues-Paying Members) Email: [discussion-boston-edison@googlegroups.com](mailto:discussion-boston-edison@googlegroups.com) to join or contact us at [bostonedison@gmail.com](mailto:bostonedison@gmail.com) 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!



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