

September 2014  
Edition



Dates To Remember:

Sept 21, 2014

HBEA Picnic in the  
Park

Oct 3, 2014

First Friday Social  
Event

Oct 4, 2014

Sounds of Music:  
The New Verse  
Ensemble

Oct 22, 2014

HBEA Fall General  
Meeting

Dec 13, 2014

VIP Preview Party

Dec 14, 2014

Holiday Home Tour



Volunteers Needed:

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



The Historic Boston-Edison Association  
Cordially Invites You to Spend the Last Summer Sunday  
Afternoon with Neighbors and Friends at

*Picnic In The Park:*  
*Voigt Park*

Sunday, September 21, 2014  
2:00pm to 6:00pm

Come enjoy music, raffles, membership drawings, kids games, great food  
and of course, your neighbors at this year's

*Picnic In the Park: Voigt Park*

The HBEA will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and buns. If your LAST  
name begins with the following letter, please bring the corresponding dish:

A - F  
Appetizers

G - P  
Salads or Sides

Q - Z  
Desserts

If you are unable to make or bring something, a monetary donation of \$5.00  
per adult would be appreciated.

Volunteers are needed throughout the event.

For more information, call (313) 883-4360 mailbox 2 or send an email to:  
bostonedison@gmail.com.



## From the HBEA President

Dear Residents

A portion of our By-Laws have been rewritten to mirror the changing times within our neighborhood. Please take the time to visit our website at [www.historicbostonedison.org](http://www.historicbostonedison.org) and read our new By-Laws posted on the "About HBEA" page. There has been an appointment for further review of our By-Laws led by Amy Officer and Andrew Moskalik as co-chairs of this committee. If you would like to volunteer to work with this committee, please send an email to [bostonedison@gmail.com](mailto:bostonedison@gmail.com) expressing your interest.

Debbie Baldwin

## Get Involved!

On the next page is the list of Standing, Ad Hoc and Event Committees of the Historic Boston-Edison Association, the appointed committee chairs and contact information. This is being provided as reference for your questions or concerns about a specific issue represented by a committee. If there is not a committee that coincides with your concern, please contact your Board Representative (see back page).

Equally important this list serves as an invitation to join the work being done for our neighborhood. More detailed information on the duties of the committees can be found in our By-Laws. Please note that some committees need members with specific skill sets (e.g. finance and fund development) and we know that you are out there! We need you. Please call the chair(s) of a committee to discuss the possibility of you joining.

Although we would love for you to attend the regular committee meetings, we understand that some of you might not be able to do so. Alternatively you may be willing to commit to help with a specific task like write a news article or volunteer on the day of an activity. There is a place for everyone to serve.

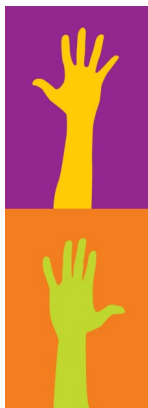
We invite you to review the table on the next page and see where you can get involved in your Boston-Edison community. We look forward to hearing from you!

Join us for our next Boston-Edison "First Friday" - a new monthly social gathering on the first Friday of each month!

October 3, 2014 from 7pm-9pm at Zenith Restaurant (in the Fisher Building)  
3011 W Grand Blvd, Detroit, Phone: 313.972.1135

They have a moderately priced menu and now serve drinks . The owners are residents in our neighborhood and we invite you to mix & mingle and get to know some of your neighbors! For more information email: [bostonedison@gmail.com](mailto:bostonedison@gmail.com) or look for an email communication from us.

*What's that? You're not receiving our Boston-Edison emails? Well, please send us a note and we will add you to the list!*



## Get Involved (continued)

STANDING COMMITTEES	GENERAL DESCRIPTION / DUTIES	MEETING DATE *	CHAIR (S)
<b>Beautification</b>	Oversees the maintenance of the parks, boulevards, vacant lots and alleys, including but not limited to trash pick-up, mowing and landscaping.	Standing: 3rd Thursday	Co-Chair Frank Griffith (313) 669-8016 Co-Chair Flora Bennett beautification@historicbostonedison.org
<b>Public Relations</b>	Recommends and implements neighborhood and public relations communications and campaigns. Works to brand HBEA.	Standing: 4th Wednesday	Chair Karen Seaman (248) 227-0892 prcr@historicbostonedison.org
<b>Holiday Home Tour</b>	Organizes and conducts all aspects of the annual Boston Edison Holiday Home Tour.	As needed	Chair Mary Konopka (313) 867-2128/ mkon1229@sbcglobal.net Hotline: (313) 883-4360 *1
<b>Security</b>	Works to improve the security of residents through education campaigns, working with City departments and other agencies. Supports Private Security Patrol in Boston-Edison as well as a Citizen Radio Patrol.	Standing: 3rd Monday	Co-Chair Victoria Koski (313) 585-4085 Co-Chair Jim Hamilton (313) 865-6306 security@historicbostonedison.org Hotline: (313) 883-4360 *3
<b>Zoning</b>	Encourages homeowners' compliance with all zoning ordinances and historic standards.	Standing: 2nd Monday	Co-Chair Patti Jernigan (313) 869-6889 Co-Chair Brian Ceccon (313) 865-1875 zoning@@historicbostonedison.org Hotline: (313) 883-4360 *4
<b>Other AD HOC and EVENT COMMITTEES</b>			
<b>By-Laws</b>	Reviews existing By-Laws and proposes updates that serve in the interest of the HBEA.	Monthly	Co-Chair Amy Officer (313) 516-0798 Co-Chair Andy Moskalik bostonedison@gmail.com
<b>Finance</b>	Recommends and provides oversight for audits and/or financial reviews, fiscal policies and standing rules. Proposes HBEA budget.	Monthly	Chair Dianne Bostic Robinson (313) 477-0264/robin664@yahoo.com
<b>Fund Development</b>	Maintains relationships with existing donors and friends of HBEA, and seeks out new donors and connections to expand fundraising for HBEA	Monthly	Chair Zené Gibson (313) 883-4077/ afriqueenz@yahoo.com
<b>House Concert Music Series</b>	Orchestrates the in-home concert series showcasing musicians to listeners from inside and outside B-E	As needed	Chair Michelle May (313) 865-1149/ nupwr319@aol.com
<b>Home Preservation Fair</b>	Organizes the annual event for residents to meet with contractors specializing in work in historic districts.	As needed	Chair Patricia Elazier (313) 868-1415/ pfel@cavtel.net
<b>Membership</b>	Strives to bring into the Association as active members, all eligible residents of the district.	Monthly	Co-chair Kim Howard (313) 433-4996/ kimberlyemerine@gmail.com Co-chair Amy Officer (313) 516-0798/ annamyka@comcast.net
<b>Picnic In The Park</b>	Organizes the annual September Picnic in Voigt Park for Boston-Edison neighbors.	As needed	Chair Victoria Edwards (313) 258-7930/ torriedwards@sbcglobal.net

\* Contact committee chair for time and location of meeting

## BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

### TAKE THE BEAUTIFICATION CHALLENGE!

We, the Beautification Committee, challenge all the Homeowners in Boston-Edison to get out and participate in Clean Curb Day on Saturday, Oct 11, 2014! We would like to see if each home can accomplish our goal of having a clean curb with no weeds, no paper, and no dirt. If you need a bag, we will be happy to provide them to you.

*Well...are you up for it?*

### The "Sounds of Music" Ends on a Classical Note

On October 4, the final concert of the 2014 "Sounds of Music" house concert series will take place with a classical performance by The New Verse Ensemble, a collection of musicians from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO), Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) and Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra. Violist John Madison, who is the principal violist of the MOT and frequent performer with the DSO and many local and national groups, leads this ensemble. Tickets are still available for this concert at \$40 each, which will include the concert and harvest-themed food and drink provided by Ovations Dining Services (313 -883-8590). Tickets can be purchased at the Boston-Edison website - [www.historicbostonedison.org](http://www.historicbostonedison.org). The address of the home hosting the concert will be provided with ticket purchase.

Our summer jazz party concert was a rousing success! On August 9, over 60 guests grooved to the sounds of the Demetrius Nabors Trio, which included Demetrius on piano, Nate Winn on drums and Miles Brown on bass. The group performed jazz standards and several of Demetrius' original tunes. Many enthusiastic audience members purchased autographed copies of Demetrius' CD release, after showing their appreciation

with a standing ovation at the end of the concert. We are very grateful to Dr. Wanda Shurney of West Boston Blvd, who opened up her beautiful home and expansive backyard for this event.

The 2014 series is sponsored in part by:

The Barthwell Group  
[www.barthwellgroup.com](http://www.barthwellgroup.com)  
(313) 866-9000

#### Our advertisers include:

Nicholas Schrock, Allstate  
Insurance  
(248) 547-4010

Beverly Lochard, State Farm  
Insurance  
(586) 296-1616

Detroit Professional Tax Service,  
LLC  
(248) 563-0604

C&N Party Rentals  
(248) 435-3580

Roy's Electric  
(313) 369-0400

Robinson Realty and Management Group  
(248) 396-3608

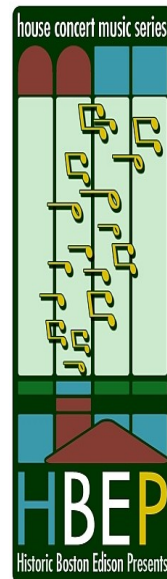
For more information, contact Michelle  
May, Music Director, at 313-865-1149.



*August 9th Concert*



*October 4th—Tickets  
still available!*



**'THE ZONE'  
ZONING COMMITTEE**

**PROTECTING NEIGHBORHOOD INTEGRITY: IT'S UP TO US!**

PROPERTY VALUES of historic homes are higher when their neighborhoods preserve a high level of historic integrity. A home with high historic integrity does, of course, have greater value than a home that has lost much of its integrity. But the surrounding neighborhood has a large influence as well. A historic home set in a neighborhood of homes with high historic integrity has a greater value than otherwise. See [www.historicbostonedison.org/pres10.shtml](http://www.historicbostonedison.org/pres10.shtml).

WHO protects the historic integrity of our neighborhood?

Boston-Edison is an historic district, and that has key importance. The Historic District Commission will prevent work that damages historic integrity, but only when they know about it.

WE have to protect our integrity! WE are the ones with "eyes on the street" all the time and who see improper work being done. If WE let the HDC know, they can act to stop bad things from happening. The staff from the HDC is not able to patrol through the many Detroit historic districts looking for owners who are damaging the historic integrity of their properties and, thereby, of the neighborhoods. It's up to US.

Protecting one's property value depends on protecting the historic integrity of

surrounding homes. No house is an island. If neighboring homes are being changed inappropriately, it affects the entire area.

HOW do we protect ourselves?

- ⇒ Anyone can contact the HDC directly and ask if work being done at some address has been pre-approved. This alerts the HDC staff, and they can follow up. See page 7 for contact information.
- ⇒ Anyone can contact the BE Zoning Committee. Zoning can alert HDC. The fastest and surest way is to email: [zoning@historicbostonedison.org](mailto:zoning@historicbostonedison.org). Or phone 883-4360 and leave "zoning" a message.

All contacts will be kept anonymous.

Don't assume that the work has been approved. Too much has not been.

Don't assume that "someone else" will contact the HDC or the Zoning Committee.

When work is going on, let someone know. They can check on it.

It's in our own interest! No house is an island. If a nearby home is being changed inappropriately, it affects the property value of all homes around it.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**40th Annual Holiday Home Tour  
Sunday, December 14, 2014  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**VIP Preview Party  
Saturday, December 13  
at 6 p.m.**

**Tickets on sale soon  
[historicbostonedison.org](http://historicbostonedison.org)**

**A big THANK YOU to all of the Attic Sale Participants!**

This year's event was a success and we hope that you found it to be worth your while!

Also a special thank you to all of those who helped or volunteered their time: The Chicago Lodgers Block Club, Dianne Bostic Robinson, Kimberly Howard, Victoria Koski, Tierney Eaton, Joyce Austin, Deniera Davis, Karen Seaman, One Iam, and Fred Davis.

We look forward to making next year's even better. Please send any suggestions or comments to improve the 2015 Attic Sale to [bostonedison@gmail.com](mailto:bostonedison@gmail.com).





## Historic District Commission News

Submitted by: James Hamilton, Historic District Commissioner

### Garages are historic, too! A garage in good condition enhances a property.

#### The historic requirements apply to them, just as to houses.

Recently, the Historic District Commission had three cases concerning garage demolitions. In the historic standards, there is a presumption that historic properties will not be demolished.

#### Garages cannot be demolished without HDC pre-approval.

However, garage demolitions can be a complicated issue. In Detroit historic districts, houses uniformly are well-designed and well-built of high-quality materials. Garages are not so uniform. Some are large, as well-built as the houses, and are themselves significant buildings. Others, though, are small, poorly built, and lack design character.

For the most part, original garages can be strengthened and repaired, and under the historic standards should be. When a garage is particularly distinctive, repair is essential to the historical integrity of the property, even if the garage is badly deteriorated.

In one demo case, the garage was brick, well-built, and distinctive. Through neglect, the entire roof structure had fallen in. At one time this would have been repairable. Now the fallen roof was pushing out the brick walls, which were about to collapse. The owner proposed to demolish the garage and build a new one in a design similar to the original. With its dilapidated state, and with a proposal for a good design, HDC approved the demo, and the new garage.

In a second case, the garage was wood frame of simple construction. It was in poor condition, and was very small. The owner wanted more garage space. Since the original was in such poor condition, the HDC allowed this demo and a larger garage.

A third case also had a simple wood frame garage, but it was not in poor condition, and it had some distinctive features that matched the house. It was very small. Since expanding the simple small garage would amount to rebuilding it, the HDC allowed the demolition and a new garage. However, the HDC required that the new garage retain the distinctive features.

Jim Hamilton and Pam Miller-Malone live in Boston-Edison and serve as Commissioners. Send any questions for them to [bostonedison@gmail.com](mailto:bostonedison@gmail.com) or call 883-4360.

## Meet the HDC Staff



Jennifer Ross has been an architectural historian at the HDC since March 2012. She has a M.S. in Architecture from Texas Tech University and meets the U. S. Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualifications Standards for an *Architectural Historian*. Prior to the HDC, Ms Ross worked as an architectural historian for over 10 years in Texas, Florida, and Michigan. With this extensive knowledge, she can be very helpful to owners of historic Detroit homes and buildings.

### Old House Know How

Taking care of old houses is not like taking care of new houses.

The Boston-Edison website has links to information that is helpful for maintaining and restoring historic houses.

[www.historicbostonedison.org/diy.shtml](http://www.historicbostonedison.org/diy.shtml)

IF YOU HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY REMOVED FROM THE B-E DISCUSSION BOARD – becoming current with your 2014-2015 membership dues can reinstate you!

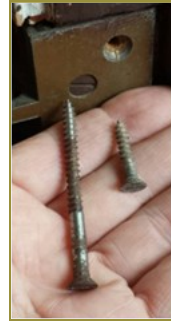
SECURITY COMMITTEE

**Adding Door Security**

*Submitted by: Colleen Dolan-Greene*

These ideas about ways to make entry doors more secure are from the master locksmith at Fred's Key Shop, as well as from numerous articles I have read.

- ⇒ Replace the door lock strike plate (where the lock fits into the door frame) with a larger, sturdier one that uses more screws. For example, our old strike plate was just over 4" with 2 screws; the new one is 10" with 6 screws. A strike box rather than a strike plate is also an option to consider.
- ⇒ Replace all the screws used in your lock, strike plate and hinges with much longer ones. Lock sets and door hinges usually come with 1" screws. Replace those with ones that are 2½" to 4" long. Make sure that you are screwing through the door frame and into the structural wood pieces. The picture shows a 3" replacement screw. This includes replacing the screws that hold your locks in place, your strike plates in place, and your hinges in place.



Note: Detroit Hardware (see ad) sells individual screws of any size. A drill bit longer than standard will be needed for 4" screws.

- ⇒ And, of course, install high quality, jam-proof deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.

For more information about door security, see the Boston-Edison web site [www.historicbostonedison.org/security/security3.shtml](http://www.historicbostonedison.org/security/security3.shtml).

**Mayor Mike Duggan—District 5 Community Meeting**



CITY of DETROIT

Thursday, September 25 @ 7 p.m.  
**Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
 3600 Van Dyke Avenue (at the corner of Mack)  
 Detroit, MI 48214

Parking is available on site. Doors open at 6 p.m. Meeting begins promptly at 7 p.m.

This is the seventh and last in a series of community meetings as outlined in the 2012 Detroit City Charter. If you need more information, you may contact Linda Vinyard at 313.224.3876



This famous baseball player was born in 1942 in Virginia, the youngest of twenty-one children. He attended Detroit Northwestern High School, and signed with the Detroit Tigers in 1961. His major league debut was late in the 1963 season; he played sparingly until the 1965 season when he was second in the AL with 104 RBIs. He played with the Tigers as a left-fielder until 1977. During that time, he was an AL All-Star four times, and was instrumental in the Tigers' 1968 World Series championship. In 2000, his number was retired by the Tigers. He lived at 112 Edison (once owned by Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Franz C. Kuhn) in the 1960s.

*Who is he?*  
 (Answer on Page 8)

**Historic District Commission**

HDC must pre-approve exterior work as historically appropriate. [www.historicbostonedison.org/pres5.shtml](http://www.historicbostonedison.org/pres5.shtml)

HDC staff can advise on appropriateness and help with pre-approval. *Contact them early when planning.*

Jennifer Ross | (313) 224-8907 | [Rossj@detroitmi.gov](mailto:Rossj@detroitmi.gov); Crystal Wilson | (313) 224-6543 | [WilsonCR@detroitmi.gov](mailto:WilsonCR@detroitmi.gov)

Ask HBEA for help: [zoning@historicbostonedison.org](mailto:zoning@historicbostonedison.org) or (313) 883-4360\*4.

## Boston-Edison Board of Directors (2014-15)

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  
Patricia Jernigan 869-6889  
Longfellow Street  
Karen Seaman 248-227-0892  
Chicago Boulevard  
Mary Konopka 867-2128  
West Boston Boulevard  
Pat Elazier 868-1415  
At Large  
Zené Gibson 883-4077

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

Edison Avenue  
Victoria Edwards 258-7930  
Longfellow Street  
Frank Griffith 669-8016  
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 (48206)

Edison Avenue  
Shela Chung 868-8195  
Longfellow Street  
Victoria Koski 585-4085  
Chicago Boulevard  
Pamela Doles 288-0382  
West Boston Boulevard  
Joy Rencher 588-0502  
At Large  
Amy Officer 516-0798

**Officers:** **President** *Debbie Baldwin*; **1st Vice President** *Dianne Bostic Robinson*; **2nd Vice President** *Kimberly Howard*  
**Secretary** *Pamela Doles*; **Treasurer** *Mary Konopka*; **Executive Secretary** *Marilyn Mitchell*

### HISTORIC BOSTON-EDISON ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 02100, Detroit, MI 48202

Website: [www.historicbostonedison.org](http://www.historicbostonedison.org) | Email: [bostonedison@gmail.com](mailto:bostonedison@gmail.com) | Hotline: 313.883.4360

Trivia Answer: Willie Horton

## 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](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 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



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