

JANUARY 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 (TBD), 2014

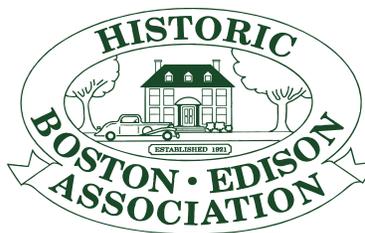
HBEA Annual Meeting and
Dinner



Volunteers Needed:

To assist with any of our
upcoming events:

> 313.883.4360 x 2
bostonedison@gmail.com



Happy New Year Neighbors!

On behalf of the HBEA Board, I want to wish all our neighbors a Happy New Year. The December Holiday Home Tour and Preview Party are over and done; the events were a huge success and a great showcase for our neighborhood.

Although the current cold weather may have us thinking of sitting in front of warm fires and sipping hot chocolate, your neighborhood association is still hard at work addressing the concerns of residents and planning for the upcoming year.

HBEA committees still meet monthly to address the needs of neighborhood residents. The *Zoning* Committee responds to complaints about city service delivery and code violations. The *Security* Committee addresses security concerns and holds meetings with local law enforcement. *Public Relations* writes and produces this bi-monthly newsletter, and soon the *Beautification* Committee will be making plans for spring projects. The *Fund Development* Committee continues to seek funding to support these activities. Additionally, we are planning for the March General Meeting and May's Annual Membership Meeting/Dinner.

All this work helps bring neighbors together to make Boston-Edison a vibrant, beautiful and safe place to live. If you'd like to help, I invite you to get involved in any of these activities. Volunteers are always needed! In addition, if you have not already paid your 2013-14 Membership Dues, it is never too late to do so. The more dues collected, the more work we're able to do to fund neighborhood projects and activities. Dues can be paid online at <http://www.historicbostonedison.org/member.shtml>.

I look forward to another year of working to keep Boston-Edison the best place to live in Detroit!
Brian Cecon, President, HBEA

39th Annual Home Tour—A Success!

The 39th Annual Holiday Home Tour was held on December 15, 2013 (in spite of the weather) and was sold out shortly after Thanksgiving! *Our greatest thanks* to the homeowners who graciously agreed to showcase their homes:

The Allen Family, Longfellow Ave.

Calvin Hughes, Edison Ave.

Mark LeDuc, Chicago Blvd.

James and Cleo Hamilton, Longfellow Ave.

Jim Draper and Brian St. Germain, Arden Park

The Tour Committee also thanks all the volunteers, tour guides, docents, transportation coordinators, cookie bakers, and refreshment providers. We could not have the Tour without all your help!

Extra special thanks also go to Gracie Brown, Cleo Hamilton, Patricia Linklater, Victoria Koski, Mary Howard, Jim Hamilton, Gerald and Angela Polk, Andrea Seavitt, Chris Schim, Mike Morgan, Larry Gaines and Dick Rubens for taking on additional duties over and above the call of duty. We also thank Sacred Heart Seminary for all their assistance.

Homes Tour VIP Preview Party Also a Success!

The Fifth Annual Holiday Home Tour Preview Party was held on the night of Dec 14, 2013 at the beautiful home of Raymond Landsberg. It was a snowy day, but 113 people braved the weather to have a wonderful time, serenaded by the student musicians from the Detroit School of Arts under the direction of Sean Smith, and young keyboardist Brendon Davis from the Kids and Jazz Program (Al McKenzie, Director).

Mr. Landsberg was a gracious host, opening his home until well after 11:00 p.m. Ovation Dining Services (313-883-8590) served the main courses with additional restaurants and friends providing special goodies, for which we are very grateful: Good Cakes and Bakes (313-468-9915), Josephine Tomaszewski (homemade cake balls), Millie Logan (homemade Christmas candy), Always

Brewing Specialty Coffee (313-879-1102), Cost Plus Wine (313-259-3845), McClure's pickles (888-784-8434), David Devries (Devries and Company Specialty Cheeses 313-568-7777), Victoria Koski (fruit donation) and The Barthwell Group (313-866-9000) for donating gourmet cupcakes. Thank you to the Fresh Cut Flowers Farm (202-222-5905) for the beautiful table centerpiece.

Thank-you to all of the homeowners for the Saturday night "sneak peek" of their homes before the Sunday tour: Mark LeDuc, Cassandra Allen, Calvin Hughes, James and Cleo Hamilton, and Jim Draper and Brian St. Germain. A big thank-you goes to co-chair Michelle May, and to volunteers Amy Officer, Karen Seaman, Zene Gibson, Pat Elizer, Beverly Lockard, Gaye Butler, One Iam, Brian Ceccon, Tom & Bob DeLaura, Gregory Montgomery, Marcia Pilliciotti, Dawn & David Johnson, Jack & Andrea Seavitt and Lafayette & Brenda West. Thank you to the Four Star Valet Company (248-924-2568), the Blue Lakes Charters and Tours Company (810-686-4287) and to Donna Pollack for providing security. Hope to see you next year!

*Debbie Baldwin,
Chair-Holiday Home Tour
Preview Party*



*Homeowners:
Jim Draper and Brian St. Germain*



Homeowner: Cassandra Allen



Homeowner: Raymond Landsberg



Homeowner: Mark LeDuc



Homeowner: Calvin Hughes



Homeowners: Jim & Cleo Hamilton

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:

- ◆ Zone A (Woodward-Hamilton) Edison
- ◆ Zone A (Woodward-Hamilton) Longfellow
- ◆ Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks) Edison
- ◆ Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks) Longfellow
- ◆ Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks) Chicago
- ◆ Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks) W. Boston
- ◆ Zone B (Hamilton-Rosa Parks) at-large



Directors must be active dues-paying members of the Association. Persons wishing to run for any of the positions, must be a resident of the Street/Zone they wish to represent and submit a nominating petition with signatures from at least ten (10) dues-paying households to the Executive Secretary, 140 Edison Avenue, Detroit, MI, 48202.

More information can be found on our website and a nominating petition will be available in the March newsletter.

Boston Edison Safe from Blight Demolition

Demolition in Detroit is being funded by \$52 million from the Hardest Hit Funds – federal dollars earmarked for blight elimination through demolition. Fortunately, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, which received the funds, has specified that these funds cannot be used to demolish within designated historic districts, such as Boston Edison. Our vacant houses and our historic streetscapes are safe from demolition.

This is not true of other neighborhoods. The Task Force has six target areas: Southwest, UDM/Marygrove, North End, Morningside, Jefferson-Chalmers, and Grandmont Rosedale. These are pretty good neighborhoods. The strategy is to try to strengthen them by demolishing houses in those neighborhoods. Not surprisingly, this has raised concerns in those areas, just as it did in Boston Edison.

Ordinarily, when federal funds are used for such a project, there is a federal requirement (called Section 106) that there be an historic impact assessment like an environmental impact assessment. The Treasury Department has ruled that demolitions using Hardest Hit Funds are exempt from the historic impact assessment requirement. Again, not surprisingly, this has raised concerns among historic preservation groups that historic buildings are endangered. But fortunately, MSHDA has exempted Boston Edison and other historic districts.

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

ANNOUNCING

The Detroit Police Department has redrawn precinct boundaries. **Boston-Edison now is entirely in the 10th Precinct.** Zone A and Atkinson east of Lodge no longer are in the First (formerly Thirteenth) Precinct.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

Police recently made an arrest after a break-in on the east side of the Lodge Freeway. This person was definitely linked to more than one B&E in the area, so if your house was broken into recently, call Sgt. Gerald Franklin (in charge of home invasions) at 596-1340 or 596-1300.



LIGHTS ON FOR SAFETY!



From Jeff, the DSS Patrolman, December 29, 2013:

"I was surprised at how dark it was in Boston-Edison the night I was on patrol. I hardly saw any porch lights on. It would help, if they were on, so that we could see the perimeter of your house better."

The Police tell us the same thing. Crooks operate best under the cover of darkness.

Lights are the cheapest possible security measure, and they are effective.

Security = RED, LIGHTS and YOU!

If you didn't already know about the recent spike in break-ins and subsequent arrest, then you are not subscribed to the BE security alert Google Group for DSS subscribers. Join today to receive real-time security updates and **free alarm monitoring for all DSS subscribers.**

In addition, the Boston-Edison Radio Patrol (BERP) has been adding patrol shifts for nearly three years, supplementing our private security patrols and keeping the neighborhood safe. BERP is made up of 40 volunteers who put in 2-4 hours per month as driver observer or base operator. If you

Not Just an Old House

Certainly our homes in Boston-Edison are old houses, but they are not "just old houses". They are "very special historic old houses." We love our homes for their historic beauty. That's why we bought them. They deserve special treatment. We have the responsibility to protect their historic character. And our responsibility is not just to the house and to ourselves, but to the future. And besides that, because we live in the Boston Edison Historic District, we actually are required to preserve their historic character!

Do no harm! That is our first responsibility. Each house has a unique design and is built of very high quality materials. The first thing is not to do anything that damages the design or the materials. We are surrounded by articles, shows, and ads about "remodeling" old houses. But the principal thing about saving historic homes is to "not remodel." It is about preserving the original model. Re-modeling changes the historic design or damages historic materials.

Repair, save, and restore. Historic homes need maintenance and repair. But then they will last indefinitely. Everything about an historic house can be repaired and preserved, or even restored like new.

Maintenance and repair keep the historic character and save historic materials. You

are not receiving emails describing the BERP schedule and who to call when there is suspicious activity in your block during these shifts...then SIGN UP TODAY! Fill out the application on our website at: <http://www.historicbostonedison.org/berp.shtml>

You can sign any 2 hour shift that best fits your schedule and in all likelihood fellow BERPers would sign up to fill the required minimums.

Neighborhood security depends on all of us..and that includes YOU!

only have to know how, or learn how, or hire people who know how.

We are only custodians. We say that we "own" our homes, but each house has a community of interest far beyond ourselves. Its walls have memories of families before us, and they will remember us. It is going to be a home for families after us. Future families want to enjoy our historic homes just as we do, and as families before us have. These families are counting on us to take care of "their" historic home.

We live in a community. We all share an interest in each other's houses. The value and beauty of one house depends on how well it is maintained and its historic character is preserved. But it also depends on how well the entire community maintains and preserves its historic character. No house is an island. One house on a block that has lost its historic character diminishes the entire block. You know examples! One reason we appreciate our houses is that they are in a beautiful neighborhood.

Save a special place. Preserving our historic homes for the next hundred years is a worthy cause to embrace. Go hug your house!

Historic District Commission News

By: James L. Hamilton, Historic District Commissioner

The Commission always delights in seeing proposed work that is historically appropriate and that enhances historic buildings. In the Sherwood Forest Historic District, as part of remodeling her kitchen, the owner wanted to change the configuration of the windows over the new sink. The proposal was careful to retain the existing limestone sills to match the windows in the rest of the house. The plan was to install windows of the same style as the rest of the windows in the house. This plan preserved the historic character of the house and kept historic material. Fortunately, the owner did not propose inappropriate windows, such as a single large picture window over the sink or windows of a different style than the rest of the house. Such changes would have diminished the house. The Commission easily approved the proposal.

Unfortunately, the Commission sometimes receives proposals for work that is not appropriate. Sometimes these involve work already completed. Owners did not contact the HDC staff for help, or ignored their advice. Owners propose work that would compromise the historic design of a building or would destroy its historic material.

In one of the historic districts, an owner demolished a front entrance porch and built a small entry stoop. The porch was demolished without pre-approval. Such demolition of an historic feature violates the historic ordinance. Nor did the owner get pre-approval for the stoop, which did not at all replicate the historic porch. For that reason, the Commission could not approve the work. The owner now must tear off the stoop and replicate the original porch. In addition, the Commission imposed a rather large fine. This situation was entirely avoidable. The owner only had to consult with the HDC staff to learn that this plan of work was inappropriate. Staff could have guided the owner to an appropriate alternative.

When planning exterior projects, consult HDC staff about getting pre-approval (see inset box). They can offer good advice. The Boston Edison web site also has information and guidance: www.historicbostonedison.org/info.shtml#pres.

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.

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.



Historic Windows CAN Be Repaired and Restored.

For information and demonstrations for specific repairs or for total restoration of windows, see

www.historicbostonedison.org/pres9.shtml

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!



WHAT'S HAPPENING ON YOUR BLOCK?

Be in the HBEA Newsletter!

Email:

PRCR@historicbostonedison.org



THEATER ON CHICAGO



Block Club: Chicago Boulevard East

Submitted by: Mary Zatina

The Chicago Boulevard East Block Club (CBEBEC) is comprised of households in the four blocks of Chicago Boulevard from Woodward on the east, to the Lodge on the west. There are close to 70 homes in our block club. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 7pm at different host homes within the district. We exist to fortify our relationships and build community. We charge no dues, but from time to time we hold fundraisers like our very successful "Theater on Chicago" event this past fall. Neighbors also chip in funds to decorate the streetlight poles in the district for the holidays with red bows and garlands. We hope the whole community enjoyed the festive look. It was entirely funded by neighbors and proceeds from our theater fundraiser.

Communication is essential for our success. For speed and cost-effectiveness, the CBEBEC conducts 90% of our communication via e-mail. Unfortunately, we do not have e-mail addresses for the majority of our neighbors and we are making a push to get them. If you live in the district, please send your e-mail address(es) to mary.zatina@Oakwood.org and indicate your street address. We will add you to the list so you know what is going on at meetings even if you chose not to attend.

We also maintain a distribution list of "Friends of the Chicago Boulevard East Block Club" and these folks get notices of our activities and invitations to be guests at our monthly meeting especially when we have special guests like candidates for public office or our Neighborhood Policing Officer who visited us in January. If you want to be on our "Friends" list, please send your preferred e-mail address(es) to mary.zatina@Oakwood.org.

Upcoming activities include an early summer garden event with a vintage fashion twist, a meeting of other block club leaders interested in networking and joining forces on activities and our annual street and alley clean-ups. We are a strong block club. We have fun and eat well. And we are making a difference. Please consider getting engaged with us!

Crime Prevention Strategies

A Police crime analyst recently gave us information about robberies in the 10th precinct during a ten day period in November / December. Although none of the crimes were in Boston-Edison, knowing the details of the robberies serve as *crime prevention strategies for us all*. The largest group of victims were sitting in their cars or pumping gas. Other targets were people at bus stops and people walking, including leaving a home or store. If there is one lesson here, it is to *pay attention to your surroundings at all times*.

- ⇒ If you plan to get gas or stop at a local store, do NOT stop if anyone is loitering nearby. Consider patronizing businesses that do not allow loitering on their property.
- ⇒ If you are coming home (or about to leave home) and see anyone you do not know lingering or walking nearby, do NOT stop. Drive around the block (or delay leaving your home) until the person moves on.
- ⇒ Do NOT sit in your parked car for any length of time. Gather your belongings, lock the doors, and go inside your destination, or be prepared to drive off shortly after entering your vehicle.

Police warn us that people paying attention to their phones are highly susceptible targets. They are distracted, they have their heads down, and their eyes are on the screen. Don't become a victim. Phone calls, texting or checking your email can wait until later.



Protecting Pets from Winter Weather

Brrrr! It's cold outside! The following guidelines will help you protect your companion animals when the mercury dips.

- 🐾 Keep your cat inside. Outdoors, felines can freeze, become lost or be stolen, injured or killed. Cats who are allowed to stray are exposed to infectious diseases, including rabies, from other cats, dogs and wildlife.
- 🐾 During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.
- 🐾 Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a storm, dogs can lose their scent and easily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season, so make sure yours always wears ID tags.
- 🐾 Thoroughly wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when he comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking his paws, and his paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice.
- 🐾 Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. When you bathe your dog in the colder months, be sure to completely dry him before taking him out for a walk. Own a short-haired breed? Consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly. For many dogs, this is regulation winter wear.
- 🐾 Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.
- 🐾 Puppies do not tolerate the cold as well as adult dogs, and may be difficult to housebreak during the winter. If your puppy appears to be sensitive to the weather, you may opt to paper-train him inside. If your dog is sensitive to the cold due to age, illness or breed type, take him outdoors only to relieve himself.
- 🐾 Does your dog spend a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities? Increase his supply of food, particularly protein, to keep him, and his fur, in tip-top shape.
- 🐾 Antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.
- 🐾 Make sure your pet has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.

Source: The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

For more information, visit:
www.asPCA.org

REMINDER

If your block club or individual block put up Christmas decorations on the boulevards or other common areas, please take them down. We don't want Christmas decorations to linger into February! Thank you!

Beautification Committee



HISTORIC BOSTON-EDISON ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 02100, Detroit, MI 48202

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

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