



Bay State Village NEWS

www.BayStateVillage.org

January
2017
published by the
Bay State Village
Association

Bay State Play Date

Neighbors with children ages 2 to 12 are invited to the Nonotuck Community School on Sunday, February 5th from 12pm-3pm to play with the Kaboom Blocks! Kaboom is a set of giant foam blocks and interlocking pieces to stretch kids' imaginations while letting them be physically active too. Nonotuck is one of only a few Kaboom sites in Western Mass, and we will have a teacher on hand who is trained in the guiding kids' use of the blocks.

This informal event is an opportunity for parents, caretakers, and kids to get out of the house and socialize with neighbors.

Feel free to stop by for 10 minutes or all 3 hours!

Bay State **BASH** Family Potluck

Sunday, April 2, 12pm to 3pm
Nonotuck Community School/
Feiker Building, 221 Riverside Drive

Come meet the neighbors! Bring food to share, and come enjoy our beverages, crafts, games (including Bay State Bingo and the Twister Competition), great music, a raffle, and the Bay State Wall of History. For more information, or to help, please contact Jeff Dawson at 413-695-4007 or dawsonjeffreyj@gmail.com

Bay State Village /Tobin Family Scholarship

If you live in Bay State Village and are you graduating from Smith Vocational or NHH this spring you are eligible. Every year the Association awards two students for their good grades and community service. Applications are available from the school guidance department. Last year's scholarships went to Riley Lathrop and Emma Almanzar. The award is named for Peg, Dot and Jack Tobin who did so much for our community.



Here's where you come in: as our friends and neighbors in Bay State Village, we hope you will contribute in any way you can to this effort to secure the building for future generations of Baystate Village children. We do not want to lose this community space, and this building's relationship to the neighborhood. Donation recognition opportunities are available, and Nonotuck Community School is a 501c3 charitable non-profit organization, so gifts are tax-deductible. **You can make a donation via the school's website or by mailing a check to the office with "Capital Campaign" in the memo line. Please contact the school info@nonotuck.org with any questions, or email Alice Rich Lewis at vp@nonotuck.org.**

Thank you! Your contribution will help create a permanent home for Nonotuck Community School in Bay State Village paying dividends for decades for our community's working parents and children.

It's Going to Take a Village!

Spanning 40 years, the Nonotuck Community School has taught, loved and nurtured the young children of over 1,000 local families. You may have seen us around the neighborhood: clambering across your lawn to try to make friends with your chickens, jumping in mud puddles, or scrambling down the riverbank to learn about crayfish. For the past 12 years Nonotuck Community School has been fortunate to lease Baystate Village's own Feiker School Building on Riverside Drive. Each year Nonotuck Community School nurtures, teaches and loves over 60 children aged 15 months to 5 years old.

Last fall the City informed Nonotuck they could no longer lease the building and they intended to sell. We managed to secure one final lease, ending July 2019, but with no option to renew. After months of rallying public support, appealing to the school committee and city, and aligning our allies, the mayor released a Request for Proposals to purchase the building. Due to our efforts and working with the mayor, Nonotuck prevailed. Our bid was accepted this month! We've secured a very generous loan and we now need to roll up our sleeves, raise the 20% needed for a down payment. To date we have raised nearly \$8,000 but need to have \$50,000 in hand by April.



Did you know? The Nonotuck School rents the use of its Community Room to the public! Call the Nonotuck office for questions or reservations: (413) 586-5996"

Repairs are coming to the CLEMENT STREET BRIDGE

DPW Director, Donna Lascaleia, reports that the final details of interim bridge repairs are currently being designed by GPI. The estimated cost of repairs is \$175,000. She anticipates the work will take place this year and it is not yet clear if the bridge will be closed during repairs or how long repairs will take. Once the interim repairs are complete Lascaleia says the process of designing more permanent repairs will begin. The complete "Bridge Assessment Report" from GPI, submitted to the city on January 22nd of 2016, is available at www.clementstreetbridge.org.

In other bridge news, the Friends group is looking forward to hearing more on how our application to have the bridge included on the National Register of Historic Places is advancing. Our final application was submitted last spring. We recognize the process will take two years or more and we continue to anticipate we will be successful! To hear more, look for regular updates from the Friends group at the Bay State Village Association meetings. Also keep an eye on the BSVA Google Group or contact Peter McLean at peterwfmclean@gmail.org.

Hinckley Street Reconstruction

Almost twenty year after it was first considered, the reconstruction of Hinckley St. should begin in late spring or early summer. City Engineer David Veleta hopes for an early start of the project "that will take a full construction season and then some." Plans call for the replacement of water and sewer lines and construction of a much larger storm water system that will discharge into an old canal along the Mill River. It also includes a new 5 foot wide sidewalk and a raised crosswalk at Nonotuck Street. Hinckley Street itself will not be widened. Engineer Felix Harvey will oversee construction for the city and can be reached at the DPW at 587-1570 ex. 4313

NOTES from our TREASURER

ANNUAL DUES

Your BSVA dues support our upcoming Bay State Playdate on Feb 5, the June Community Tag Sale, our late summer picnic, and our annual Roadside Clean-Up. Dues support information meetings for elections and for town proposals, the garden in front of Rick's Auto, printing expenses for this newsletter, and our website. Dues are \$10 per calendar year per household, optional for households with a family member over 65. Please send your check payable to "BSVA, Inc." to: BSVA, Inc.; c/o Norman Spencer, Treasurer; 26 Nutting Av; Florence MA 01062. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed with this newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The many gifts to our Scholarship Fund have created an \$18,000 endowment. Since 1991, this has provided an annual scholarship to a graduating Smith Vocational School student or a Northampton High School student who lives in Bay State. Our endowment is held in long-term C. D.'s and in conservative mutual funds. Gifts to the Fund help us to increase the award amount, now \$350, without depleting the endowment. BSVA, Inc is an IRS 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your tax-deductible donation to our Scholarship Fund should be payable to BSVA, Inc. Please mail it to BSVA, Inc; c/o Norman Spencer, Treasurer; 26 Nutting Av; Florence MA 01062. A receipt will be given to you for tax purposes. Thank you.

Digital Communications in the Neighborhood

Neighbors have a few options to connect with each other electronically these days. In addition to the Bay State Village Google Group, which we wrote about in the last newsletter, there is now a Bay State Village group on the website Nextdoor.com. Nextdoor is a social media site that allows neighbors to share much of the same information we have shared for years on Google, with some additional features as well. Nextdoor offers a member directory, calendar of events, and coordination with other local neighborhood groups. Our Nextdoor group currently has about 80 members, while the Google Group has about 200.

After a number of discussions within the association, the BSVA has decided to continue to use the Google Group for announcements from the association. While we certainly do not discourage anyone from using Nextdoor, a number of neighbors voiced concerns about the hassle of signing up for yet another social media network, the inclusion of paid sponsored content, and privacy concerns. The Google Group also has significantly more members. Of course, neighbors are welcome to use either or both when posting about events, requests for recommendations, borrowing tools, etc.

If you would like to sign up for the Google Group, please go to groups.google.com and search for Bay State Village. From there, you can sign up. You do not need a Google account to participate, and you will not be added to any other email lists.

To sign up for Nextdoor, just go to Nextdoor.com and enter your address. You can then create an account and log in.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your Calendars!

- Feb. 5, Sunday:** Bay State Playdate, 12-3 pm at Nonotuck Community School/Feiker building
April 2, Sunday: Annual Bay State Bash, 12-3 pm at Nonotuck Community School/Feiker building
April 22, Saturday: Annual Bay State Cleanup
June 3, Saturday (rain date June 4): Annual Bay state Tag Sale
August 19, Saturday: Annual BBQ Picnic, 3-7 pm, Maines Field

Website: www.baystatevillage.org

Our **e-bulletin board/listserv** is sent to members by email. Add your name or post a message via:

<http://groups.google.com/group/baystatevillage>

Bay State Village Association

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