
BHIA block party draws a crowd

Susan Kryczka
Staff Reporter

Saturday, June 8 turned out to be a picture-perfect day for the Bellevue Hill Improvement Association (BHIA) block party in West Roxbury, the second in the organization's history. The first took place before the pandemic, roughly 10 year ago, and this second party was designed to reintroduce the organization to old and new neighbors with lots of enticements: free hot dogs, watermelon salad, popcorn, pizza, desserts, and a visit from a Boston Fire Department fire engine parked on Oriole Street, open for kids to explore and firefighters available to help

navigate and answer questions.

The sunny, warm weather was the icing on the cake that brought out dozens of people from around the neighborhood during the three-hour event.

Ginny Gass, BHIA president greeted all via a loudspeaker, "I'm so happy people could join us today for our block party and membership drive. I welcome you all and hope we can become neighbors and friends forever."

The BHIA is not new to the neighborhood. "It's been in existence since the 1950s," said Gass, explaining the expanse of its coverage. "The param-

BHIA Party

Continued on page 7



Dozens came by the Bellevue Hill neighborhood on Saturday to get to know their neighbors.

PHOTO BY SUSAN KRYCZKA

BHIA Party *continued from page 1*

eters of the association include from Holy Name Church on Centre Street, all the way down to St. Teresa Avenue, up to Washington Street, down Washington to the West Roxbury Parkway and then down again to the Holy Name Rotary. Anyone who lives within the parameters can join the association. There's a lot going on in our neighborhood." BHIA sold \$10 annual memberships at the party which also included a gift (a plant) and a free raffle ticket for a chance to win a massage, two Red Sox tickets, or another plant.

A new BHIA member making its presence felt in a different way was Pawsitive Pantry, a pet food pantry that had two large tables, a rack of pet coats and sweaters and boxes filled with pet supplies on hand, available at no cost to those who find themselves unable to afford food or items for their pets.

"The organization started in Vermont and expanded to Massachusetts," said Margaret "Maggie" Gander, a volunteer for the organization. "We wanted to be sure people didn't have to decide between feeding their pets and feeding their families. We keep the families and their pets intact, keeping them out of the shelters. All of the items we have are donated by neighbors, new or used, or by local pet stores like PetSmart in

Westwood, or Pet Supplies Plus in West Roxbury... We are not reselling this. We are giving all of it away. People can take what they need."

The group also partners with Rose's Bounty, the local West Roxbury food pantry. "Later today we'll be there for their Saturday drive...we support their home-bound neighbors, and veterans."

Gander lives in the neighborhood and uses her garage to store many of the donated items until distribution.

Others came to visit with neighbors.

"It was a beautiful day and we wanted to connect with all the neighbors in the association and get to know new neighbors to just chat, catch up on what's going on in the neighborhood," said Steve Huska, who came with his son and a friend and heard about the block party through flyers and neighbors who told him about it.

District 6 City Councilor Ben Weber was also in attendance along with Mark Cohen, a longtime West Roxbury resident who works part-time as a West Roxbury Liaison for the city.

"This is absolutely the best part of my job," laughed Cohen. "When somebody calls me up and says come out on a Saturday to a block party, meet some neighbors, have a hot dog and enjoy what has turned out to be an absolutely magnificent day!

You really kind of get to know people. In government there is a lot of criticism about our losing touch. So, this is the kind of thing we love to do. Look at the groups of people, lots of people smiling and talking to each other...This is an opportunity to do something completely different that is so healthy."

"This made more sense than a membership meeting, let's do some block parties, let's get neighbors to meet neighbors, a lot of them moved here recently," said Paul Nivens, a West Roxbury resident and member of the BHIA Board of Directors, explaining how the decision was made to host a block party. "I've lived here for more than 50 years...we raised our family here. It's a chance to give back."

Nivens said he feels the biggest issues facing the neighborhood are transportation cut throughs and the public school system. These he knows must and will be addressed in order to prevent families from leaving the city.

Many attending the block party lingered a long time to continue conversations, eat, and soak up more sun. For those interested in Pawsitive Pantry volunteer activities or may need pet supplies, more information is available at <https://pawsitivepantry.org/> For more information about the BHIA go to <https://bellevuehill.org/>



FATHERS DAY SPECIALS

DINE IN or TAKE OUT

Open at 12 pm. Regular menu also available.

Appetizers

SHRIMP COCKTAIL.....\$12.99

Gulf Shrimp, served with cocktail sauce

STEAMERS! STEAMERS! STEAMERS!.....\$15.99

Fresh Maine soft shell clams steamed and served with a dipping broth and drawn butter. A New England Favorite.

Entrées

ROAST BLACK ANGUS PRIME RIB..... \$29.99

14 oz. of slow-roasted boneless Black Angus prime rib, in its natural au jus. Served with potato and vegetable.

CAPTAIN BLIGH'S PLATTER \$25.99

Fresh scallops, scrod, shrimp, and whole clams flash fried. Served with French fries, homemade cole slaw, and onion rings.

ROAST TURKEY DINNER.....\$16.99

Oven roasted turkey breast served with cornbread stuffing, pan gravy, mashed potato and vegetable.

GUINNESS BRAISED LAMB SHANK.....\$19.99

Braised and slow roasted Domestic lamb shank with a Guinness Demi-Glace, mashed potato and vegetable.

TWIN PETITE TENDERLOINS \$22.99

Twin 4 oz Petite Tenderloins cooked to order, served with demi-glace and choice of potato and vegetable.

Corrib Gift Cards are Great for Dad!

**2030 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA
617-469-4177 • WWW.CORRIBPUB.COM**