

**What's Happening This Week...**

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**COMMUNITY MEETINGS & EVENTS**

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**The City of Boston's Budget:**

Where Our Money Comes From and How It is Spent

Hosted by Episcopal Church

Corner of Stratford and Clement Ave.  
West Roxbury, MA  
Tuesday, May 9, 2006  
7:00PM

Budget Talk Dates to Follow:

May 25th - Allston/Brighton  
Location TBA

May 31st - Charlestown  
442 Bunker Hill Street

**Intervale Street/Normandy Street Residents Association**

Monthly Meeting

Project RIGHT, Inc.  
320 Blue Hill Avenue

Thursday, May 4, 2006

**Weekly Update From Sam Yoon**  
From the Office of City Councilor At-Large  
Sam Yoon

Week Ending May 6, 2006



Dear Reader,

The purpose of this e-mail update is to keep you informed of legislative issues at the City Council, current events, and community news.

As you may already be aware, I have been engaging in a series of budget talks throughout the city, "Where Our Money Comes From and How It Is Spent." These sessions will continue this month, and up to this point, there has been an overwhelmingly positive reaction in all of the neighborhoods.

Each forum on the budget has not only sparked intelligent, important dialogue but has also provided key insights to neighborhood priorities and resident concerns.

This issue I would like to highlight some of the information that has been gathered from the recent budget talks. It is my goal to inform all communities so that they may compare and contrast neighborhood interests. Furthermore, this data can help us understand how the entire Boston community wants to spend their tax dollars. Enjoy!

Sam Yoon



**Budget Priorities Across the Neighborhoods**

All participants in these budget talks were given five round stickers, and were asked to place their stickers next to any of nine budget categories. They had the option of putting all five stickers on one category, or spreading them across five different categories -- whatever they wished.

Here is how some neighborhoods responded:

**FIELDS CORNER**

Host: Melville Park Neighborhood Association

In this Dorchester neighborhood where I live, Public Safety was the number one priority with 27 votes. Second place was Education with 23 votes, then City Infrastructure with 19 votes. This particular

6:30P.M. - 8:00P.M.

617.541.5451 x102

#### LeadBoston Class of 2007 Recruitment Breakfast

Sponsored by Boston Center  
for Community & Justice  
(BCCJ)

Freedom House  
14 Crawford Street  
Dorchester, MA

Friday, May 12, 2006  
8:00A.M. - 9:30A.M.

To RSVP or for more  
information:

Contact Corrie Martin  
617.451.5010 x19  
cmartin@bostonccj.org

[BCCJ website click here!](#)

#### 5th Early Educators Awards Gala

The Innerscity Network of Early  
Education Professionals &  
Boston Association for the  
Education of Young Children

Lombardo's (Randolph)

Saturday, May 13, 2006

Call Katie @ 617.522.0881  
email: office@baeyc.org

Tickets are limited, call soon!

#### Moving Beyond Boundaries Summit

Sponsored by MAP for Health

Courtyard by Marriott  
Boston Tremont  
Boston, MA

May 19, 2006

For more information:  
617.426.6755 x203

[MAP for Health Website  
click here!](#)

neighborhood of Fields Corner, Melville Park, is a relatively quiet area with large Victorian homes, yet was affected by the wave of crime and violence that the city felt last year and continues to affect us.

#### EAST BOSTON

Host: East Boston United

In East Boston, Education topped the ticket with 11 votes, Library with 10 votes, and Public Safety with 9 votes. East Boston was the only neighborhood that had their Library in the top three. I learned that their public library is in deplorable condition. One constituent pressed for more investment in the schools, saying, "Education is the key to everything."

#### BEACON HILL

Host: Beacon Hill Business Association

The ticket-topper for Beacon Hill (which also drew several participants from the South End) was City Infrastructure (19 votes), with Education and Public Safety tying for second place (14 votes each). One constituent family urged me to push the city to operate on a 24 hr/7 day a week basis with respect to trash and dumping violations, parking enforcement, and street repairs and upgrades.

#### JAMAICA PLAIN

Host: Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council

One thoughtful constituent in JP requested the addition of another category: environmental sustainability. The top categories here were: Youth and Family Programs (20 votes), Education (19), and there was a tie for third place: Sustainability (9 votes) and Public Safety (9 votes). There was a clear priority placed on youth and families at this meeting, with this budget area getting even more votes than Education.

#### GROVE HALL

Host: Project RIGHT (Rebuilding and Improving Grove Hall Together)

The Grove Hall budget talk was attended by both neighborhood residents as well as advocates and activists outside Grove Hall. Like Jamaica Plain, their top priority was Youth and Family Programs (20 votes), then Elderly Services (17 votes), then Education, Public Safety, and Neighborhood Economic Development (15, 14, 13 votes respectively). Votes here were the most

**12th Annual Kidney Walk**

Franklin Park Zoo  
Boston, MA

Sunday, May 21, 2006

For more information:

Contact Kathleen Durepo @  
781.278.0222 x107  
email:  
kdurepo@kidneyhealth.org

**26th Annual North  
American Chinese  
Basketball Tournament**

Reggie Lewis Track and  
Athletic Center

Madison Park Community  
Center

Wang Chinatown YMCA  
Memorial Day Weekend  
May 27th - May29th

Tournament Banquet  
China Pearl Restaurant, Tyker  
Street, Chinatown

Sunday, May 28th @ 7PM

evenly distributed across all the categories.

**SOUTH BOSTON**

Host: Cityside Neighborhood Association

In South Boston, Public Safety was the top concern (29 votes), followed by Education (22 votes), then Youth and Family Programs (16 votes). Councilors Michael Flaherty and Felix Arroyo both attended this talk, raising issues regarding the high cost of school transportation as well as the city's financial burden associated with tax-exempt land.

**THANKS**

To my colleagues on the City Council who have attended these talks – Council President Michael Flaherty, Chuck Turner, Paul Scapicchio, Mike Ross, and Felix Arroyo (who attended four!).

Also special thanks to einstruction who graciously provided the interactive technology for these budget presentations! More information about einstruction can be found at <http://www.einstruction.com>

**MORE TO COME:**

In upcoming issues, I will report on how participants felt about cutting and controlling expenses, about increasing and adding revenue and about the city's performance on the budget and the budget process.

Also: I will report on upcoming talks in West Roxbury, Allston-Brighton, Charlestown, and Uphams Corner.



**Councilor Yoon Holds His First Two  
Housing Committee Hearings**

You can watch me in action if you have RealPlayer installed onto your computer and a couple of hours to spare!

Hearing on Franklin Hill Housing Development/March 28, 2006

This hearing was sponsored by Councilor Charles Yancey, and focused on the redevelopment of a Boston Housing Authority (BHA) housing project called Franklin Hill. This project will be developed, in cooperation with the BHA, by a private company named Trinity Financial.

[To watch the webcast of the Franklin Hill hearing, click here!](#)

Hearing on Northeastern University's Interest in Purchasing Low-Income Housing/April 18, 2006

This hearing was sponsored by Councilor Chuck Turner, and focused on the contemplated sale of over 50 units of subsidized housing, St. Botolph's Terrace, to Northeastern University. St. Botolph's Terrace has affordable housing subsidies and requirements in place until the year 2019.

[To watch the webcast of the Northeastern hearing, click here!](#)

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NEWS YOU CAN USE: Housing Information  
Homeowner and Homebuyer Programs

As Chairperson of the City Council Housing Committee, Councilor Yoon would like to inform you of city and state programs available to homeowners and homebuyers.

In each newsletter, different programs will be highlighted for your convenience. Please contact our office if you would like more information on any of the programs below.

All handbooks and brochures are offered by the Department of Neighborhood Development free of charge.

1. 1st Home Program- the 1st Home Program markets new and completely rehabilitated City-sponsored affordable homeownership properties by conducting lotteries to select eligible buyers. Completing just one application includes you in all homeownership lotteries for which you are eligible. 617.635.HOME
2. Triple Decker Plus- The Triple Decker Plus program helps eligible first-time homebuyers purchase a three-decker home in Boston. 617.635.HOME
3. Rental Housing Resource Center- The rental Housing Resource Center resolves housing disputes by providing free mediation services to landlords and tenants. Call 617.635.4200 for a free copy of the handbook or go to:

[www.cityofboston.gov](http://www.cityofboston.gov) Keyword: Rental Housing

4. Homeless and AIDS Housing- This program provides funding for housing and supportive services for the homeless, people with AIDS and at-risk populations.

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**NEWS YOU CAN USE: 2006 Surplus Paint & Used Motor Oil Drop-off Recycling Program**  
[Free Paint!](#)

This program is open to all Boston residents! Starting in May and continuing through October, residents may drop-off paint and motor oil to be recycled. This program offers a free alternative to paid private disposal (hazardous waste is not picked up with regular trash).

Below find time and locations for drop-off/pick-up:

Saturdays. 9AM - 1PM, May - October

1st Saturday of the month: Roxbury Public Works Yard, 280 Highland St.

2nd Saturday: Hyde Park Public Works Yard, 58 Dana Ave.

3rd Saturday: Brighton Public Works Yard, 315 Western Ave.

4th Saturday: East Boston Public Works Yard, 320 East Eagle St.

Drop-offs must be in original containers that are not open or leaking. Labels must be legible. Please do not mix paints. No evaporated or empty cans. Maximum 20 containers.

For more information, call 617.635.4959

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**Help Make Our Newsletter Better**

This newsletter is intended as a resource for information for all of our city's communities. With Councilor Yoon, together we share the belief in a better Boston. In the future there will be an opportunity to subscribe to the Weekly Update From Sam Yoon. Watch for announcements!

If you would like to share information about an event or meeting in your community, please contact Harry Harding in our office via email or



phone using the contact information below.

**Follow up Links**

- [City Of Boston](#)
- [Community Event Search](#)
- [Boston Housing Authority](#)
- [My Neighborhood/My District](#)

email: [harry.harding@cityofboston.gov](mailto:harry.harding@cityofboston.gov)

phone: 617-635-4217

web: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil>