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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

## Allston Village Main Streets annual meeting set for Wednesday; Menino, Capuano to speak

Posted by Matt Rocheleau March 26, 2013 12:19 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The [Allston Village Main Streets](#) nonprofit plans to honor neighborhood business owners and local volunteers and showcase some of its most recent accomplishments during its annual meeting Wednesday, March 27.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino and US Representative Michael Capuano are expected to speak at the event that begins at 6 p.m. at the Common Ground Bar and Grill on Harvard Avenue.

The citywide Boston Main Streets program uses public funding and staff to support 20 independently-governed Main Streets organizations, including the one in Allston, that work with local business districts to improve storefronts and public spaces.

During 2012, Allston Village Main Streets brought in about \$52,000 from the city to help pay for six storefront improvement projects. Nearly 100 volunteers logged a collective 811 hours for the organization. Twenty-four neighborhood businesses received 60 hours of one-on-one technical assistance from the

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businesses received 60 hours of one-on-one technical assistance from the nonprofit.

In the past year the organization also: sponsored a new street-side mural as well as the seasonal [Allston Village Farmers Market](#); provided funding for 13 [electrical boxes](#) to be painted by local artist; launched a [mobile application](#) held three major promotional events – the [Taste of Allston](#), [Rock the Village Music and Style Show](#) and the [Allston Rock City Art Tour](#) – which together drew more than 1,000 people and participation from more than 50 businesses.

On Wednesday, the organization will give plaques to award a business of the year and a volunteer of the year.

[Refuge Café](#), at the corner of Harvard and Brighton avenues, has been chosen as the top business of 2012. The board said the café's owner, Jennifer Lee, and her staff "have created a destination business that celebrates Allston's artistic and local traditions."

Daniel Toffling has been chosen as the best volunteer of 2012. He made key contributions to the organization's promotion committee and helped the organization launch a new website and mobile app and DJ-ed at the recent [Rock the Village Music and Style Show](#).

The 17-year-old nonprofit will also introduce its newly-elected board of directors: board president is Scott Matalon, owner of [Stingray Body Art and Rawr](#); vice president is Marc Kadish, owner of [Sunset Grill and Tap](#), [Sunset Catina](#), and [Patron's](#); treasurer is Mark Lussier, general manager of the Allston branch of TD Bank; clerk is Devin McPhie, of [Technology Square Security](#); and other members are: Paul Loiselle, of [Sovereign Bank](#); Paul Derboghosian, of [Rainbow Vision](#); Chris Rowell, of [Boston University](#); Adam Femino, of [Stingray Body Art](#); Gustavo Quiroga, of [Allston Brighton CDC](#); Jessica Robertson, of [Metropolitan Area Planning Council](#); Ariel Strauss, owner of [Froyo World](#); Deena Jalal, owner of [Fomu](#); Daniel Toffling, owner of [Dreamingcode](#); and LV Randolph, of [Startuplab Allston](#).

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