

King of the Hill



Anthony "Tony" King knows the importance of being involved in community matters.

Savin Hill sports youth volunteer loves his neighborhood and the people who reside there

by Kevin Devlin

His love and devotion to his beloved Savin Hill neighborhood is as refreshing as a cold drink on a hot summer's night. He has lived in Savin Hill his entire life and knows the importance of being involved in his community. He has focused his energy on the future, that being the youth that live there, by being active in their sports programs. His name is Anthony "Tony" King.

King, 24, has been the Commissioner of Savin Hill Baseball for the past four seasons. He has coached the Little League (age) All-Star team for seven years. As far as King is concerned baseball is the focal point of sports in Savin Hill and he just wants to make sure the program keeps on ticking. And, he knows that he couldn't do so without the ever-present assistance of his partners-in-sports, Mike Christopher and Ryan Woods. However, he would like to see more parents and others involved in this program.

"I know it's a cliché, but I got involved in sports because I wanted to give back to my neighborhood," said King. "I get a great feel-

ing when I see the kids and work with them. I love this neighborhood and all of the people. It's a great place to live and I want to see it stay that way. And so with that said...I would like to call upon more parents and others in the neighborhood to get involved in our sports programs. A few people can't do it all. We need others to help out so that we can continue to work with our youth and build for the future."

King is also the president and founder of the Richard P. Pacitti Memorial Baseball Tournament that has been held in Savin Hill's McConnell Park in August for the last five summers. Little League teams from the Greater Boston area participate in this two-day event. This past summer the event was expanded to include two girls' softball teams in memory of recently deceased Richard "Dick" Finnigan.

Six one-thousand dollar scholarships are given out each year. Five are dedicated to the memory of Richard Pacitti and one in the name of Dick Finnigan. These annual scholarships which are to be used for school-related purposes are open to boys and girls in the fifth through eighth grade.

The winners are chosen by essays submitted by them as requested by tournament officials. Gail (Pacitti)

Hobin, Robert Pacitti, Ed Geary Jr. from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Mike Devlin from the Boston Centers for Youth and Families Recreation Division, and Lauren Smyth are invaluable assets for King as prepares for this event each spring. He enjoys doing this because he feels it brings the community together each year to

pay tribute to not one, but now two, special community people who unselfishly served their neighborhood for many years.

"I remember Richard telling me to get off of the corner and go play some hockey," said King. "I looked up to him and admired his optimism and dedication to the community. Dick Finnigan was another guy who loved

Savin Hill. He just made it a better place in which to live because he was involved... and he cared just like Richard did."

This past year, King has been involved with coordinating various sports clinics at the bequest of Project Deep founder Brendan McDonough. King organized an eight-week bas-

continued on pg 14

Open letter to South Boston Residents

A city sponsored meeting to present two development proposals for the former Police Station Six building will be held this Thursday, Sept 30, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the Condon School, 200 D St., South Boston

This is your last chance to tell the city what you want for South Boston ... an Arts/Community Center ... or more low-income housing?

A proposal for the creation of a South Boston Art and Cultural Center was submitted to the City last month, fulfilling all requirements with solid architectural, financial and sustainability plans, strong community backing and exciting graphics.

For the past year a group of South Boston residents, artists, historians, writers, actors, athletes, musicians, veterans, lawyers, community workers, corporate managers, and others have been meeting and crafting a proposal for the Community-based Art Center.

NON-PROFIT STATUS: In July the group became a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation through the law firm of Nixon Peabody and elected an 11-member Board of Trustees.

ENGINEERING: A multi-talented architectural team, working with Southie resident and SoBACC trustee Tom Jurus ... donated its time and services to the South Boston community ... developed a proposal that leaves nothing to chance. The group was led by the international architectural firm Perkins & Will. (www.perkinswill.com)

FINANCING: The SoBACC Board of Trustees has engaged Nessen Associates to handle the financing for the arts center proposal. The Nessen Brothers (Peter Nessen and Robert Nessen) have over 15 years experience assisting non-profit organizations in raising capital.

CONSTRUCTION: The police station was built in 1914 by the James McLaughlin Construction Company, designers and builders of two other famous Boston structures ... Boston Latin School and Fenway Park. In respect for its historic background the exterior brick frame will remain as originally designed and constructed. (Read about the building in Dennis Lehane's latest novel 'The Given Day.')

THE BUILDING: The arts center will be constructed environmentally friendly, as a green building. It will feature a 135-seat state of the art theater, meeting rooms, galleries, and a variety of arts-related studios. It will be designed to accommodate music, painting, creative writing, music, dance, and theatrical training space ... not only for local youth but for seniors and residents of all ages. The facility is also designed to serve as a permanent home for many South Boston civic, social and neighborhood organizations.

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Michele Hart

continued from page 6

for herself over 13 years, until she took on a full-time mother's responsibilities in 2006. When the opening at Eastern occurred in mid-2010, they and she were both ready to come to terms.

Eastern Bank is strong. It started in 1818; it is the largest mutually owned bank in Massachusetts. It is #19 in the Boston Business Journal's list of large corporate contributors. It was the state's largest SBA lender in 2009, and may be the largest in 2010 also.

Michele intends that her branch will become a major supporting presence in the South Boston community.

She'll foster relationship-based personal banking at Eastern's 470 Broadway Branch. That approach will apply to business lending as well. She says, "I'd like potential clients to feel free to come in and ask me, 'Have you got five minutes to discuss ...?' or to ask a question like, 'Have you got someone I could see about ...?' We'll take care of inquiries like those at once."

She's proud of the Branch's rear entrance to the parking lot, the only one on the block. From the vantage point of her desk, Michele gets to become acquainted with a lot of new and potential customers as they pass through that way. Wave at her as you go by. She'll be glad to see you.



Thank You

The family of
Theresa Louise Alekna
thanks you sincerely for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated.

King of the Hill
continued from pg 13

ketball clinic (July through September on Sundays) at the Savin Hill hoop courts. He organized a week-long baseball clinic held this last August at McConnell Park. And, he coordinated a one week all-recreational sports clinic held in Savin Hill.

As a youngster growing up, King was an avid hockey player. He played hockey in the local youth leagues and then was a standout varsity hockey player at Catholic Memorial High School in West Roxbury. Two years ago, he represented the Team USA In-Line Hockey squad that won the gold medal in Italy,

vying for the coveted award against fifteen other international teams. He was also approached by Chrissy Flaherty from the Mayor's Office in 2008 to run a two week in-line hockey clinic at Garvey Park which he gladly did. And then last winter, King got back into the ice rink, and coached a midget travel team in the Dorchester Youth Hockey League.

To top of his busy schedule, King coordinated a pre-season flag football clinic last May which was held in a local Dorchester Park across from the Beantown Athletics, a store he recently bought along with his partner Paul McAleer. He is certainly a busy, young man who in his own words

gets it...and truly loves and cares about his neighborhood. Roger Croke, a lifelong Savin Hill resident and community activist (who King affectionately refers to as Uncle Roger) has nothing but praise for our enthusiastic young lad.

"Tony King is a mature, likeable, young man," said Croke. "He has great organizational skills and the ability to bring people together. He has athletic ability, coaching knowledge and is a tremendous role model for the kids growing up in Dorchester. For such a young person he has already done so much for his community... but is certainly on the fast track to accomplish more in the years to come."

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